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22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Dialogue to avert crisis: Premier

Sheikh Saad to meet more deputies today

KUWAIT, Feb 9: HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah said today his recent meeting with a group of former Parliament deputies "stemmed from the firm belief of the political leadership in national dialogue."

The Crown Prince said in a statement to Kuna he sensed during the meeting "a keen interest in averting the repetition of such practices and crises which caused the former Kuwaiti

parliamentary experiment to stumble and fail."

Sheikh Saad, referring to the audience he granted last Wednesday to 29 former parliamentarians, said the meeting was part of his dialogue with a cross-section of Kuwaiti citizens "for consultations on all that serves the country and citizens," as instructed by HH the Amir.

He said the "positive" meeting on Wednesday was characterised by "an air of fraternity, candour and clarity."

He pointed out that discussion centred on the need for reaching "definite, practical formula that would ensure avoidance of previous errors and negatives that had led to the dissolution of the National Assembly in 1976 and 1986."

The Crown Prince stressed he will continue to have such meetings with citizens and urged Kuwaitis to join hands in serving the country's best interests, as the goal that comes ahead of any other consideration, in accordance with the directions of the Amir.

Hussein Salameh adds: It has been learnt that the Crown Prince will today receive another group of former National Assembly deputies.

Among the former deputies will be Fahd Al Hajri, Sayah Abu Shaiba, Barrak Al Noun and Munazzal Al Knezi.

The parliamentarians whom the Premier will meet today are different from those he met with on Wednesday.

Sayah Abu Shaiba, a former deputy and one of those who will meet Sheikh Saad today, told the Arab Times that the meeting is a qualitative transfer in the ongoing process of the dialogue being conducted by the Kuwaiti leadership.

He said that all parties in the dialogue should meet on the main goal which is popular participation. He stressed that one differs on this goal, but the only difference is the way by which the popular participation can be achieved.

He hoped that the dialogue will arrive at positive results that will pave the way for a responsible participation based on achieving co-operation between the legislative and executive authorities for the benefit of the Kuwaiti citizens.

It was also learnt that the meeting that Sheikh Saad is expected to host later this week at the Shaab Palace will be highly important. It will gather a large number of personalities, informed sources said. The sources added that in light of that meeting, more sessions to discuss details will be announced.

Meanwhile, former National Assembly deputies affirmed that their meeting on Wednesday with the Crown Prince was positive and "broke the ice" with the government.

Speaking to an Arabic daily, Jassem Al Qatani, a former deputy praised the outcome of the meeting and added that it paved the way for holding further meetings.

Ahmad Nassar Al Sharrah also expressed optimism at the outcome of the meeting and said that it was characterised by frankness and good intentions from both sides.

Today's weather
(Page 9)

Fugitive rebel held again

ANGELES, Philippines, Feb 9: (UPI) Police have recaptured a communist guerrilla who was snatched by his comrades in a daring escape last October after he attended a court hearing in connection with the slayings of three US soldiers in 1987, authorities said today.

Police arrested Romeo Valencia on Thursday night while he was on his way to visit his family in the liberty city of Angeles adjacent to the US Clark air base 50 miles (80 km) north of Manila, said Lt Col Julius Yarcia, metropolitan police district command chief.



Jose Gamus

Youth shot dead

After shooting at Mubarak palace

CAIRO, Feb 9, (Agencies): An armed teenager was shot dead when he crashed his car into President Hosni Mubarak's official residence today and wounded two security guards, the Egyptian Interior Ministry said.

The ministry statement, carried by the Middle East news agency, said 17-year-old Adham Mohammed Hafez stormed security gates at the palace and fired a pistol injuring two guards.

"They were forced to return the fire, killing him instantly," the statement said. It was the first such attempted attack since Muslim hardliners killed President Anwar Sadat at a military parade in October 1981.

Mubarak is currently in the southern Egyptian town of Aswan before a fundraising ceremony on Monday as part of a campaign to resurrect Egypt's ancient

Alexandria Library.

"We heard firing, four or five rounds," a traffic policeman on duty at Mubarak's house said.

"We were told it was unidentified people in a car who shot at the palace. Apparently, they got away," he added.

He said police were immediately told to divert traffic and to seal the main road leading to the residence. Several checkpoints manned by police armed with machine-guns were set up.

One resident earlier said a lone gunman had tried to force his way into the main presidential headquarters, opposite Mubarak's residence, but guards shot him dead. There are unconfirmed reports of other casualties.

Presidential guards declined comment and told reporters who drove to the area to leave immediately.

Call for Kashmir peace

Temple building delayed

NICOSIA, Feb 9, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia has urged India to seek a peaceful solution to separatist Muslim unrest in Kashmir, where at least 81 people have been killed in the last two weeks.

The Saudi government is following with concern the events in Kashmir where the situation has deteriorated and a number of Muslims have been killed," a Foreign Ministry statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency said on Wednesday night.

"Saudi Arabia ... urges friendly India to work for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the framework of United Nations resolutions and international norms," it said.

The Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference, which has 46 members, called on Wednesday for self-determination in Kashmir.

"Recent events in the area occupied by India show the bleak future facing the inhabitants of that area," OIC Secretary-General Hamid Ali Ghabed told foreign ministers and delegations gathered in Jeddah to mark the group's 20th anniversary. charred bodies were found in a burned van.

(Continued on Page 2)

NEW DELHI, Feb 9, (UPI): Hindu radical groups today announced the postponement of the construction of a temple at a religious site claimed by Hindus and Muslims, temporarily averting renewed tensions in a communal dispute that has already claimed more than 600 lives.

The World Hindu Association and the Rama Birthplace Liberation Society said they would delay for four months the construction of the temple in the northern Uttar Pradesh state town of Ayodhya, (520 km) southeast of New Delhi.

The decision comes as a major boon for the government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh as any attempt to build the temple would have fuelled tensions and almost certainly led to Hindu-Muslim clashes at a time when communal relations are being taxed by a bloody independence movement in predominantly Muslim Kashmir.

Zahed Matar

19 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI, Feb 9, (Agencies): Three people were killed in Karachi today, raising the death toll to 67 in three days of ethnic and political unrest in Pakistan's biggest city, doctors and police said.

Residents, meanwhile, rushed to buy food and medicine as a curfew, covering about two-thirds of Karachi's eight million people, was lifted for three hours today, witnesses said. Many residents complained about high prices.

Police and doctors said two of today's dead were curfew violators shot by security forces in the city, capital of the southern province of Sindh. The third was killed in an incident at his home.

The unrest began when the powerful Karachi-based Mohajir National Movement (MQM), which speaks in the name of Muslim immigrants from India, called a general strike.

The MQM was protesting against what it called repressive policies by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, which denies the charge.

More than 40 people were killed on Wednesday in gunbattles between security forces and anti-government protesters.

Police and doctors said a further 16 people were killed in sporadic overnight violence.

The Edhi medical trust said these included five people whose

(Continued on Page 2)

66 die in Turkish coal pit disaster

ANKARA, Feb 9, (Reuters): Turkey's largest labour union urged miners today to boycott work at all mines to protest a coal pit disaster in which 66 people were killed.

"We propose to the two (major) mining unions that they stop production to protest the lack of job safety measures in the sector which makes mass murders of accidents," said a statement by the Turk-Is Confederation with over 1.5 million members.

The miners were killed in a blast and fire at the Yenicecik lignite pit near Merzifon in northern Turkey on Wednesday and the bodies of 58 men were abandoned in the pit which was sealed off to extinguish the flames.

Rushdie's head must roll, says Khamenei; Thatcher denounces threat

NICOSIA, Feb 9, (AP): Iran's spiritual leader said today that the late Ayatollah Khomeini's order calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie must be carried out, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, quoted Ayatollah Ali Khamenei assaying in a sermon today that Khomeini's Fatwa, or religious decree, "about the writer of the blasphemous book, 'The Satanic Verses' is still valid and must be implemented."

In a related development, nine Iranians deported from Britain arrived in Tehran today.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denounced Iran's reaffirmation of its death sentence on

Rushdie.

A statement from Thatcher's office said she condemned the renewal of the threat and believed it was "much to be regretted."

The Indian-born British author, in hiding since Khomeini issued the decree Feb 14 last year, said this week he considered appearing in public to deliver a lecture on censorship, but had been dissuaded by his police guards.

In interviews with the British Independent newspaper and Newsweek magazine, Rushdie said he regretted the pain the book caused, but said he stood by it. He said he was pressing for a paperback

edition.

Muslim fundamentalists, who consider the book "blasphemous for its irreverent treatment of the Prophet Muhammad, (PBUH) Islam's founder, reacted violently to the book after its publication.

But the controversy snowballed after Khomeini issued the death decree and several Iranian leaders put a \$5.2 million bounty on Rushdie's head.

In Tehran today, an Iranian television journalist deported along with an Iran air official and seven students, said in a radio interview that it was no coincidence that the expulsions came near the anniversary of Khomeini's death decree.



Pair'estrolka

Suzan Eisenhower, 38, grand-daughter of the late US president and Soviet scientist Rostislav Sagdeyev, 57, exchanged a few words after getting married yesterday at Moscow's Griboyedovskiy Wedding Palace. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWSWATCH

Show the light, have sex: An Egyptian newspaper for devout Muslims advised readers on Thursday that a wife who declines to have sex with her husband will be cursed by God's angels until she repents, and a husband has the right in such a case to beat up his spouse to make her see the light.

Sheikh Ibrahim El Wakfa, a religious advisor to the Cairo weekly *Al-Naba*, in reply to a letter from anxious reader Mohammad El Metwali, said divorce in a case where a wife refuses to have sex with her husband was a last resort.

"A wife who refuses sex with her husband will be cursed by the angels of God until she repents," Sheikh Ibrahim advised his worried reader. "If she insists on refusing to have sex with her husband, he can divorce her, but only after advising her, leaving her to sleep alone, and beating her up lightly," the scholar said.

Sheikh Ibrahim suggested that the husband ask for two witnesses, preferably one from his wife's side of the family and one from his side, to judge her behaviour after he has beaten her up.

"If all this proves futile, then he is allowed to divorce her," he said. (UPI)

Europeans heed US warning: European governments are bracing for a possible terrorist attack this weekend after Thursday's warning from the United States.

The United States said it feared terrorists might attack US targets in Western Europe to coincide with Sunday's 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran. (Reuters)

Shannon shoots self: Rock 'n' roll singer Del Shannon, who topped the charts in the early 1960s with "Runaway," apparently shot and killed himself in his home, authorities said on Friday.

Shannon, 56, was found late Thursday in the den of his house with an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, deputy Chris Wahla said. A .22-caliber rifle was discovered on the floor next to Shannon.

Czech-Israeli ties resumed: Czechoslovakia's new government distanced itself from the policies of its communist predecessors on Friday, renewing diplomatic ties with Israel it broke in defiance to Moscow 23 years ago.

Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier and his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens signed an accord in a tapestry-lined room of Prague's Ceram Palace to restore full links between the two states. (Reuters)

Guessing Gorby game

MOSCOW, Feb 9, (UPI): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev left it open today whether he would run as a communist in the first multiparty presidential elections.

Before meeting Secretary of State James Baker today, an ebullient Gorbachev was asked by reporters about the landmark reform passed by this week's three-day Communist Party plenum.

The plenum called for a multiparty system with a presidential system, and Gorbachev was asked whether he would contend for election as a communist in such elections.

"Let us wait and see," said a smiling Gorbachev, who is now both the president and head of the Soviet Communist Party of some 18 million members.

Gorbachev, the Communist Party general secretary, said he began mapping the political reform process as soon as he came to power in March 1985.

Another Manila coup plot officer captured

MANILA, Feb 9, (Reuters): Philippine security forces today captured a renegade army major who led an attack on Manila's domestic airport during last December's failed coup attempt.

But other rebels issued a defiant statement saying: "For every single one of us arrested, tens and hundreds of new comrades are born."

Disaffected soldiers have vowed to launch another coup to overthrow President Corazon Aquino, whom they accuse of allowing rampant corruption and of weak leadership.

Major-General Ramon Montano, chief of the paramilitary Philippine constabulary, said Major Jose Gamus was seized shortly after midnight in a restaurant in

a Manila suburb.

Gamus, former security aide to Aquino's estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel, was the eighth officer to be arrested in connection with the December mutiny, the sixth and bloodiest coup attempt since Aquino took office in 1986.

A 500,000 peso (\$22,700) reward had been offered for the capture of Gamus, who Montano said was alone and unarmed and did not resist arrest by members of the constabulary acting on a tip-off from civilians.

He was arrested three days after the military raised the bounty for the capture of 27 renegade officers, led by cashiered Colonel Gregorio Honasan who carries the highest price of five million pesos (\$227,000).

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Call for peaceful solution in Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

He said the OIC declared its "full solidarity with the Islamic republic of Pakistan and our support for the struggle waged by the Muslim Kashmir people for self-determination."

A Pakistan-based Afghan rebel government yesterday announced support for the current violent Muslim campaign for independence in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

"We demand that the Kash-

miri Muslims in the occupied territory be conceded their right of self-determination," Prime Minister Abourrah Rasool Sayyaf said in a statement.

An opposition leader in Pakistani-administered Kashmir appealed to Britain today to help stop fighting between Muslims and security forces in the Indian-ruled part of the territory.

"I think that Britain should come forward to solve it," Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, president of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Muslim conference, told reporters.

"Britain basically wants peace... there will be no peace until the people of Kashmir get the right of self-determination," added Chaudhry, who is deputy opposition leader in the state legislature.

Tens of thousands of Muslims worshippers were forced to stay inside today after two bombs exploded in Srinagar, the centre of Kashmiri separatist rebellion, and authorities tightened

security.

No one was hurt or killed in the blasts, but the resulting ban on public assembly kept Muslims from their Friday prayer services.

"I call on all authorities in New Delhi and Srinagar to restore all religious and political rights to the people of Kashmir," said Moulvi Mirwaiz Farooq, the head priest of the region's main mosque and a political opposition party leader.

67 killed in Karachi violence

(Continued from Page 1)

An eight-year-old girl was shot by gunmen firing from a speeding car in north Karachi, police added.

The combined opposition parties parliamentary coalition, of which MQM is a partner, called today for a protest day on Feb 16 when it said rallies and special prayers at special Muslim congregations would be held.

The government which massacres its own people has no right to rule the country even for a single day," said a resolution passed by top opposition figures at a meeting in Islamabad.

Government spokesmen blame the MQM for most casualties.

Troops Thursday enforced indefinite curfews in 17 areas of the city to prevent more fighting, officials said. They said the soldiers shot and killed two people, including a woman, violating the restrictions.

They said one person was killed and four wounded in fighting between MQM and PPP workers during a funeral procession for one of those who died on Wednesday. Snipers wounded six other people and militants set fire to a flour market in one area under curfew.

Karachi was otherwise largely deserted with very few shops open in areas not under curfew. Almost all government offices remained closed and most public and private vehicles stayed off the roads.

A government spokesman in Islamabad said 42 people were shot and killed on Wednesday, including a soldier and four police officers, hospital sources said more than 115 were wounded by bullets, stabbings or fire.

Both sides blame the other for the violence. The MQM has charged the trouble was sparked by gunfire from security forces, while the government said MQM workers fired indiscriminately to create chaos in the city.

Meanwhile, MQM has accused Benazir Bhutto's followers using knecapping against abducted opponents taking a leaf from the book of the Irish Republican Army.

"Our six workers were shot in the knee," said a MQM spokesman.

"One worker's knee was drilled by an electric drill machine," he said. Pakistan People's party denies the charge.

The MQM spokesman named six activists whom he said were released by abductors after having been subjected to knecapping.

"It is inhuman, it is barbaric," he said about the method he said the IRA, fighting against British rule in Northern Ireland, was using as a form of punishment.

The PPP says 110 of its workers were kidnapped by MQM activists in the past 15 days.



Satellite back

The Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF) sits in the background as the media crowd in the foreground to take photos of the satellite at the Kennedy Space Centre on Feb 7. The satellite was brought back from space aboard the space shuttle Columbia. (Reuters wirephoto)

No snag to space plans

Micrometeoroids hit LDEF

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Feb 9, (AP) — A long-orbiting satellite rescued by a space shuttle crew last month shows some deterioration but not enough to halt NASA's plans for a permanent manned space station, a project scientists said.

"There is nothing here to indicate you can't proceed with the space station," William Kinard told reporters who viewed the long duration exposure facility in a sterile room where it is undergoing preliminary examination after six years in space.

Kinard reported the 11-ton satellite, sent into orbit to determine how durable various materials would be in space, was prepared with thousands, "perhaps as many as 10,000," of tiny bits of space dust called micrometeoroids.

He based the estimate on a count of 40 visible hits on one small section of the LDEF satellite, the size of a small school bus. He said the largest crater was 5 millimetres in diameter, about one-fifth of an inch.

"It's like a child coming down at Christmas time," project scientists William Kinard said of the satellite. "There are a lot of toys to see. There's a tremendously interesting amount of things to look at."

The 11-ton Long Duration Exposure Facility — LDEF — satellite was plucked from its failing orbit by Columbia's crew on Jan 12 and returned to Earth aboard the shuttle eight days

later. The cylindrical 30-foot-long (9m-long), \$15 million satellite was removed from Columbia's payload bay last week and taken to a hangar-like facility for a detailed inspection before its 57 experiments are removed and shipped back to scientists across the nation starting late this month.

"I think it's going to be a very active effort for the next several years," Kinard said. "I think people are going to be analyzing it for the better part of a decade."

"Most of these craters are maybe a millimetre or less," Kinard said.

LDEF (pronounced El-deaf) was launched in 1984 to expose a variety of high-tech materials to the harsh radiation, vacuum and temperature extremes of space in research expected to help engineers design longer-lived spacecraft.

Nasa originally intended to retrieve the satellite after just 10 months in orbit, but a rescue mission was postponed by a series of shuttle launch delays and, ultimately, the 1986 Challenger disaster. But Kinard said the extra time in space benefited most of the experiments.

Scientists have been surprised by the full effects of such tiny impacts, which Kinard said can expose underlying materials to vacuum and atomic oxygen while causing temperature controlling "thermal blankets" to delaminate in the immediate vicinity.

'Let kids find it themselves'

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, Feb 9, (AP) — Students, not scientists, will harvest whatever discoveries are yielded by 12.5 million tomato seeds the space Shuttle Columbia returned to earth aboard the rescued Long Duration Exposure Facility satellite.

The seeds contributed by Park Seed Co.

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Study on swans' migratory habits

TOKYO, Feb 9, (AP) — The mystery of where swans go on their migratory flights may be unravelled with the development of a tiny transmitter to be attached to the birds so they can be tracked by a satellite.

The Wild Bird Society of Japan and the telecommunications utility Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. jointly announced that a transmitter weighing 1.4 ounces (40 grams) will be attached to swans.

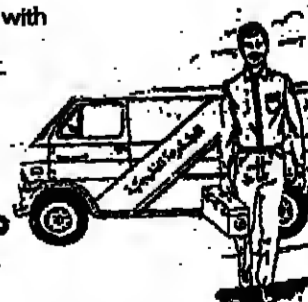
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Paula jumps to top of pops

NEW YORK, Feb 9, (AP): Paula Abdul took a big step to hit the top of the single pop record charts in the United States with her new hit "Opposites Attract." The disc was in eighth place a week ago.

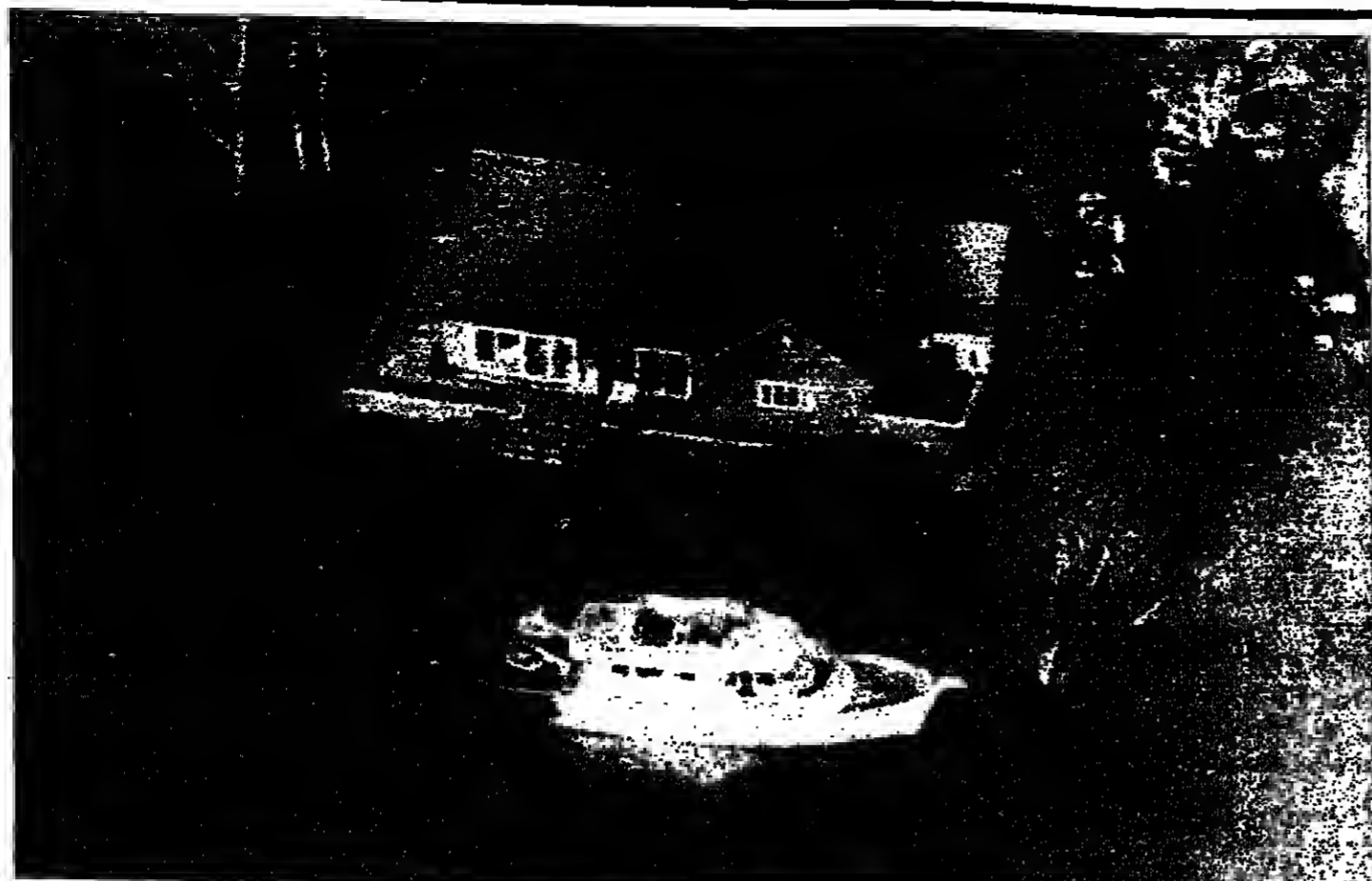
Michael Bolton's "How Am I Supposed To Live Without You" stayed on for the third straight week in the number two slot on the Cash Box magazine chart. Rod Stewart's "Downtown Train" slipped from number one to third.

The only newcomer to the 10 list was "Janie's Got A Gun" by Arrowsmith, up from 12th to 5th.

Restless Heart made it number one on the Cash Box magazine country-and-western singles chart with "Fast Moving Train." Alabama's "Southern Star" was second, and George Strait's "Overnight Success" was third.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (8) Opposites Attract — Paula Abdul (Virgin).
2. (2) How Am I Supposed To Live Without You — Michael Bolton (Columbia).
3. (1) Downtown Train — Rod Stewart (Warner Brothers).
4. (4) Twisted — Rod Stewart (Vendetta-A and M).
5. (12) Janie's Got A Gun — Arrowsmith (Geffco).
6. (7) Free Fallin' — Tom Petty (Geffco).
7. (10) I Remember You — Skid Row (Atlantic).
8. (6) Just Between You and Me — Lou Gramm (Atlantic).
9. (3) Pump Up the Jam — Technotronic (SBB).
10. (5) Everything — Jody Watley (MCA).
11. (13) Fast Moving Train — Restless Heart (CA).
12. (9) Southern Star — Alabama (MCA).
13. (10) Overnight Success — George Strait (MCA).
14. (16) Heartbreak Hurricane — Ricky Skaggs (Epic).
15. (5) Statue of A Fool — Ricky Van Shelton (Columbia).
16. (11) Little Girl — Reba McEntire (MCA).
17. (7) One Man Woman — The Judds (Curb-RC).
18. (9) Where've You Been — Kathy Mattea (Mercury-Polygram).
19. (13) No Matter How High — The Geto Boys (MCA).
20. (14) On Second Thought — Eddie Rabbit (Universal).



House - ahoy!

A boat is moored in a tree in front of a house after the Thames River overflowed its banks following a severe storm in southern England and

Wales Feb 8. More than 70 miles of the Thames is under a flood alert. (Reuter wirephoto)

2 dead: homes, farms flooded

Second storm hits UK

LONDON, Feb 9, (AP): At least two people have died in Britain's second storm in less than two weeks as rain flooded homes and farmland in southern England and fallen trees blocked roads and railroad tracks, police said.

An Atlantic storm swept into Britain Wednesday, packing winds of 60 to 80 miles (95 to 130 kilometres) per hour.

A storm that struck Europe on Jan 25 killed 47 people in Britain and caused one billion pounds (\$1.7 billion) in damage in south and west England.

Southwesterly winds sweeping the English Channel with gusts up to 100 miles (160 kilometres) per hour lashed coastal towns and cities in the west on Wednesday and disrupted ferry sailings.

Police said a man died Wednesday when a tree blown over by the wind crushed his car near Andover 60 miles (95 kilometres) per hour southwest of London. A repairman trying to restore power in homes without electricity because of storm damage near Warrminster 95 miles (150 kilometres) west of London was also killed Wednesday when he was struck by a car.

The strong winds brought down power lines in southern England, blacking out the small town of Fleet 35 miles (55 kilometres) southwest of London and 2,000 homes in surrounding countryside.

Elsewhere in southern England, authorities

reported roads and railroad tracks blocked by fallen trees and damage to overhead power pickup lines of electrified sections of railroad.

"Wales and the west country are particularly badly hit with flooding and very high winds making conditions absolutely unbearable," a spokesman for the automobile association said.

Days of rain have caused serious flooding in Scotland, Wales and western England.

British rail services were disrupted in Wales, and a south Wales police spokesman described road conditions as "abysmal."

Weather forecasting organisations have been scrupulous about predicting storms since the October 1987 nighttime storm that took much of southern England by surprise, killing 20 people. A Defence ministry investigation said the meteorological office failed to give adequate warning of that storm because its scientists put too much trust in the predictions of an out-of-date computer.

Forecasters said the high winds are caused by cold air moving down from the Arctic, hitting unseasonably warm air surrounding Britain in the Atlantic, creating the very dramatic low pressure that fuels the winds.

A big mopping up operation was underway yesterday in Britain.

Rushdie dialogue ruled out

BRADFORD, Feb 9, (AP): Following author Salman Rushdie's defence of "The Satanic Verses" in a lecture written in hiding, a Muslim organisation has renewed its demand for withdrawal of the book.

The Council for Mosques in the northern city of Bradford, which has a large Muslim population, issued a statement Wednesday saying the novel is "an affront to Muslims, their faith and their self-image," and adding: "For the past 15 months, Muslims have lived under an atmosphere of intimidation and harassment."

"As long as the book remains in publication and circulation there can be no possibility of any dialogue with the author, publishers or their allies."

The council had already called the lecture — delivered in London Tuesday on Rushdie's behalf by playwright Harold Pinter — a publicity stunt.

Many Muslims consider the book blasphemous, and Rushdie has been in hiding since the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a death sentence against him Feb 14, 1989.

"The secularist liberal lobby has left no stone unturned to malign Muslims," the council said. "Under these circumstances there can be no possibility of constructive dialogue on the issue."

Quinn married Yolanda Addolmi, an Italian teacher who was a wardrobe mistress on "La Strada" after his first marriage, to Katherine de Mille, daughter of director Cecil B. de Mille, ended in divorce.

Anthony Quinn to undergo heart by-pass surgery

LOS ANGELES, Feb 9, (Reuter): Anthony Quinn has entered a hospital for heart by-pass surgery after suffering chest pains for three months, a spokesman for the 74-year-old actor said last week.

Quinn's illness forced him to quit a six-city US tour with the Broadway play "A Walk in the Woods," in which two diplomats, one from the Soviet Union and the other from the United States, take walks in a wood and discuss world affairs.

Spokesman Mickey Freeman said the pains

developed after Quinn had finished filming a television movie based on Ernest Hemingway's "Old Man and the Sea," in which he plays the leading role of Santiago.

Freeman said Quinn, who is expected to be in a New York hospital for at least a week, had no other current acting engagements.

Quinn, who was born in Mexico and came to the United States when he was a year old, won Academy Awards for his role as a Mexican revolutionary in "Viva Zapata!" and for portraying the French painter Paul Gauguin

in "Lust for Life."

He played an Arab in "Lawrence of Arabia," an Italian strongman in "La Strada" and Greeks in "The Guns of Navarone" and "Zorba the Greek."

A former amateur boxer, cement mixer and fruit picker, he became an actor at 15.

Quinn married Yolanda Addolmi, an Italian teacher who was a wardrobe mistress on "La Strada" after his first marriage, to Katherine de Mille, daughter of director Cecil B. de Mille, ended in divorce.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LANSING, Michigan: Zoo officials want to give Mac the Bison a home where the buffalo roam.

Mac, who weighs 1,800 pounds (816.5 kilograms), currently resides in Lansing's Finner Arboretum, but Potter Park Zoo officials want to move him somewhere where he can live with other animals.

"That animal's not in a good setting," said zoo director Douglas Finley. "It's alone. It should be with other bison."

This saddens Wes Goins, who lives next door to the arboretum and who made friends with the big beast by feeding him apples until Mac finally ate out of his hand.

The zoo feeds Mac grass, hay and grain but Goins regularly treats him in corn and fruit. Zoo officials discourage the extra feedings.

Mac once shared the pasture with antelope, longhorn cattle, deer and prairie dogs, which have since died or been relocated. Mac sired several calves with a bison cow, but she died three years ago.

Goins said he'll visit Mac whenever he goes if they are separated.

"I think if they took him out of here and I went to see him, I think he'd come if I called him," he said. City officials will move Mac to a new home if the friends of the arboretum decide that living among other bison would be best for him.

ALBANY, New York: New York Senator Anthony Masiello says it is unfair that college students pay tax on textbooks but that magazines ... bring no extra state levy.

"How can we collect sales tax on the works of the great masters while adult magazines and borderline pornography are trafficked openly and freely?" the democratic lawmaker asked Monday.

Under Masiello's proposal, the state would stop charging sales tax on college textbooks. To compensate for the lost revenue, Masiello would charge sales tax on "adult" magazines.

All magazines are exempt from New York state sales tax. Other states exempt textbooks from sales tax, Masiello said.

Masiello said New York receives about \$1.3 million a year from sales tax on textbooks. He says taxing the magazines would bring in about \$9 million (AP).



Composer Van Heusen dies

Composer Jimmy Van Heusen, (shown left) who won Hollywood Oscars for "Swinging On A Star" and "All The Way," died at the age of 77, a family spokesman said on Wednesday.

Van Heusen died on Tuesday night at his home in the California desert resort of Rancho Mirage of complications caused by pneumonia, the spokesman said. Van Heusen, who wrote his first hit, "It's The Dreamer In Me," at 25, worked with lyricists such as Sammy Cahn, Johnny Mercer, Johnny Burke and Eddie DeLange. Cahn said it was impossible to write a bad line to a Van Heusen melody. (Reuter wirephoto)

HONOLULU, Hawaii: Anguilla is not a real eel, insists Hawaii state senator Richard Matsura, who says it is simply the victim of bad publicity.

"It looks like an eel, but it is a true fish with scales, gills, fins, et cetera," he said.

Matsura is the current legislative champion of the nearly annual bill to allow the importation of anguilla rostrata and anguilla japonica for research on raising them commercially as an aquaculture product.

There is a huge market for anguilla, which is popular in Europe and Asia, Matsura told the Senate on Monday.

The house agriculture committee last week killed the house version of the bill after siding with biologists and environmentalists who said there was too much risk that the slippery anguilla would escape into the wilds and munch away on Hawaii's natives stream life.

Live anguilla were allowed into Hawaii before 1974, primarily for the restaurant business, Matsura said.

"No one seems to know why the ban was placed on the anguilla except that it looked like an eel, which it is not," he said.

BURBANK, California: Actor Tom Hanks will play Sherman McCoy in the movie adaptation of Tom Wolfe's novel "Bonfire of the Vanities," a satirical look at New York's social hierarchy at the end of the 20th century.

The Warner Brothers film cast also includes Bruce Willis as journalist Peter Fallow and Melanie Griffith as the McCoy's extramarital girlfriend, Maria.

The industry newspaper Daily Variety said Monday that Elizabeth Perkins was negotiating to play the part of Hanks' wife, Judy. The pairing would be their first since "Big."

The movie begins filming April 17 with five weeks of location shooting in New York City, followed by two weeks in Los Angeles and six weeks on a sound stage at the Burbank Studios. The movie is set for Christmas release. (AP)

الانجليزية الكويتية KUWAIT ENGLISH SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL - NEW ENTRANTS 1990

Applications are now being invited for a limited number of places in the Junior Department for September, 1990. Entrance tests will be held on Thursday, 15th February or Thursday, 1st March, 1990.

Application forms are available from the School in Salwa (Saturday - Wednesday 7.30 am - 2.30 pm and Thursdays 8 am - 12 noon). CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1990.

For further details and appointment for test, please contact Junior Department Secretary on Tel: 5655216/5655218/5625640.

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23rd March 1990 — Golden Jubilee year of Pakistan Resolution

Under the auspices of APPROB, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution, an essay competition amongst Pakistani school children in Kuwait has been planned on the topic of "MY ROLE IN BUILDING OF A BETTER PAKISTAN."

This effort is aimed at instilling a sense of purpose and direction in the upcoming future generation of Pakistan through academic initiation.

The competition will be held in Urdu and English. Students in the age group of between 12-14 (Juniors) and 15-18 (Seniors) are requested to send their essays by the 15th of March, which should not exceed 1500 words and minimum of 1000 words.

Four prizes of KD 100/- each (2 each for English & Urdu) will be awarded to the best articles in each age group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Mr Abdus Sattar Ghazali.

For further details, contact APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751 - P.O. Box 2351 Salmiya, 22024 Salmiya Kuwait.

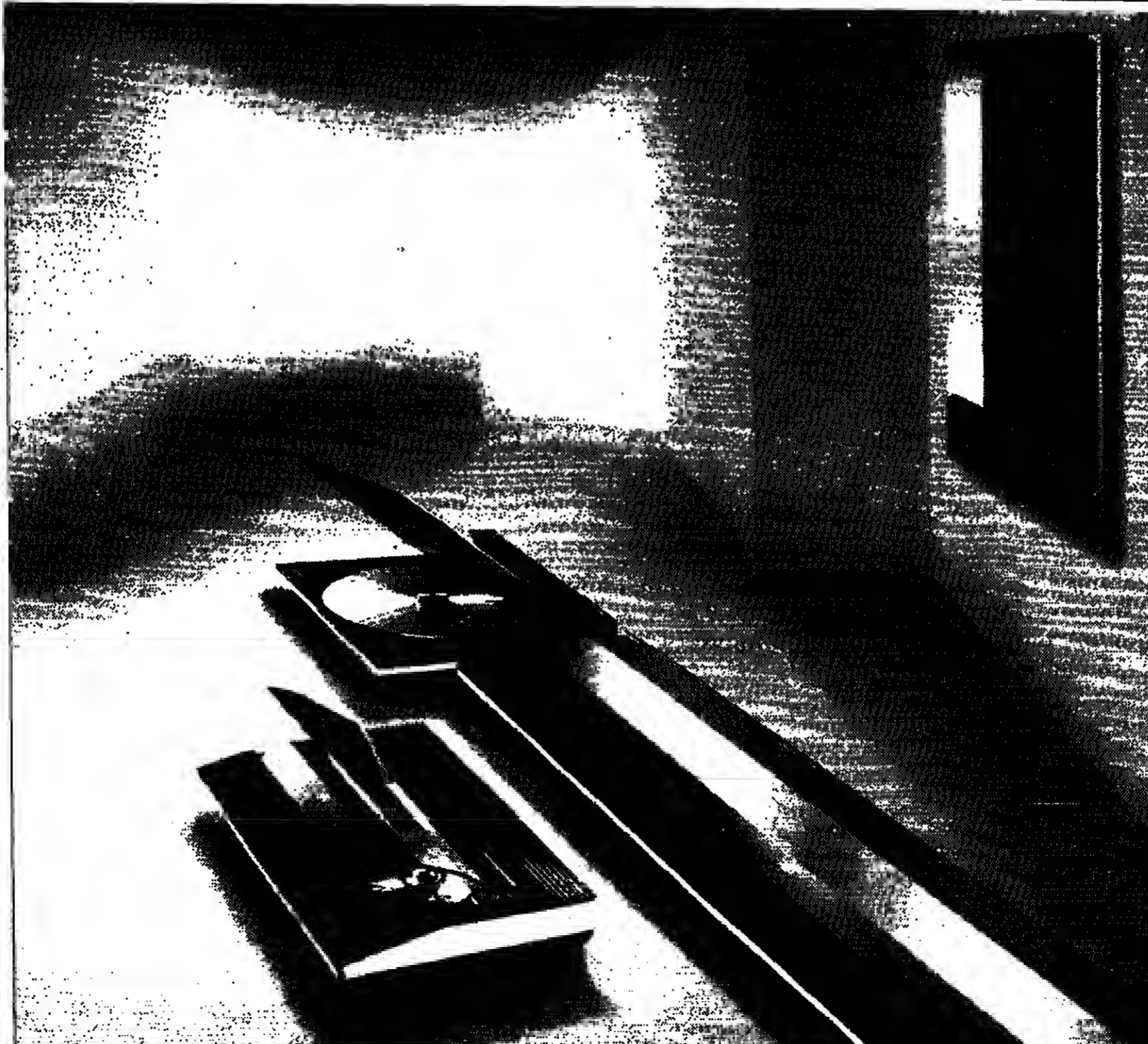
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Subliminal self-help tapes

Miracle cure or fraud

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan, Feb 9, (AP): Soft classical music plays from an overhead sound system in the offices of Mind Communication Inc., while telephone operators take orders for the company's subliminal self-help audio and video cassettes.

They may be hearing Mozart, but the 40 employees are willing guinea pigs for the company's theory that what you can't hear is perhaps more important than what you can.

The music masks subliminal suggestions — inaudible messages supposedly perceptible only to the subconscious — motivating employees to overcome procrastination and increase production. The messages include "I do it today" and "I take action now."

"I've had it in for two weeks and I've seen a huge difference," chiropractor and company president Paul Tuthill says from his office in the Grand Rapids suburb of Wyoming. "The good people have improved immensely and the people who are marginal or shirkers quit."

Mind Communication, which reported sales of \$3.5 million in 1989, is one of only a few companies in the \$50 million self-help tape industry.

The industry's premise is that we can recognise information presented below our threshold of awareness. Even though the listener hears only soothing music or the sound of ocean waves on an audio cassette or sees images of nature on a video, the subconscious mind can detect the hundreds or thousands of speeded-up, underlying subliminal suggestions, manufacturers say.

Mind Communication offers about 300 titles by direct mail, ranging from weight loss and improving sex — two of the biggest sellers — to controlling spending habits and becoming a better bowler. There are tapes designed for children to build self-esteem or stop bedwetting.

Subliminals have been raising eyebrows since the 1950s, when it was reported that by flashing "eat popcorn" during a movie, theatre owners prompted patrons to rush for the concession stand, unaware they had been subliminally persuaded.

In recent years, it appears millions of consumers have brushed aside the diabolic connotations associated with mind control and comparisons to big brother while they plunk down \$10 to \$40 for what manufacturers market as a shortcut for solving problems and breaking bad habits.

The 60-minute tapes, most of which provide a script of their messages, are prominently displayed near self-help books in national bookstore chains. Such US publishing companies as Simon and Schuster, Random House and Bantam Books recently have devised their own versions.

Many respected researchers claim there is no proof these self-help tapes work.

"They're a waste of time and money," said Howard Shevlin, a University of Michigan psychologist who has been involved in subliminal research for more than 30 years. Shevlin said even if there was a behavioural change in some people it would be impossible to trace it to the tapes.

Shevlin suggests the possibility of harmful side effects in some people, a theory with which Tuthill agrees.

"Theoretically, they could be harmful with forced prolonged exposure," Tuthill said. "If the message is noxious or contrary to what you want, people have actually developed some bizarre symptoms."

Tuthill said he has seen a smoker develop headaches and heart palpitations when exposed to a stop-smoking tape. The symptoms stopped when the person stopped listening to the music. Tuthill even puts warning labels on his weight loss tapes because of reports from pediatricians that children inadvertently exposed to the tapes were losing weight.

Barrie Konicov, owner of the

Gene can suppress tumours: A gene that blocks a rare eye cancer can also suppress prostate tumours, one of the most common cancers among men, a group of researchers report in a study to be published Friday in Washington.

In experiments in laboratory mice, scientists at the University of California-San Diego say they have shown that a normally functioning retinoblastoma gene, or RB, inserted into human prostate cancer cells is able to suppress formation of tumours.

The RB gene is usually missing, mutated or not functioning in such tumours.

Dr Robert Bookstein, one of the researchers, said the study may help advance progress toward learning how to control cancer through use of tumour suppressor genes, such as RB, or the proteins that such genes produce.

Such cancer therapy, however, "is years and years away," he said. Barry Nelkin, a cancer suppressor gene researcher at the Johns Hopkins University oncology centre, said the California study "is potentially quite important."

"A lot of people are looking for the genetic link to prostate cancer. The few studies that have been done have not pointed to anything specific," Nelkin said, finding that the RB gene is a suppressor in prostate cancer "gives us a clue as to the mechanism of tumour genesis."

Bookstein said scientists in the California study used a retrovirus to insert the RB gene into human prostate cancer cells that did not contain the gene.

The genetically treated cancer cells were injected into the right flanks of 20 mice that lacked an immune system, a special breed. The scientists injected untreated prostate cancer cells in the left flank of the mice.

New colon cancer therapy: About 5,000 people with advanced operable colon cancer could be saved each year by treatment with a medicine used to de-worm farm animals, a researcher says.

About one-third of newly diagnosed patients with this stage of disease have been put on the drug since its benefits were announced by the National Cancer Institute last fall.

A detailed report on the treatment was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, and doctors said they hoped this information will convince physicians who are still sceptical.

"With publication in a prestigious journal, they will review this information and decide it is worth trying," predicted Dr Michael Friedman, chief of the cancer institute's therapy evaluation programme.

The treatment, which combines the veterinary drug Levamisole and the standard cancer medicine Fluorouracil, is the first chemotherapy approach shown to help people with the most advanced form of colon cancer that can be removed surgically.

The therapy was tested on 1,296 colon cancer patients in a study directed by Dr Charles G. Moertel of the Mayo Clinic. Over three years, the treatment reduced cancer recurrence by 41 per cent, and it lowered the death rate by one-third.

Di with Lee
Princess Diana talks to Mark Lee, a team leader of Turning Point, Hungerford Drug Project at their Soho offices in London's West End. She is patron of the charity, one of the largest in the UK dealing with drink, drug and mental health problems. (Reuter wirephoto)

Happiness disease: As if people with low self-esteem didn't have enough problems, here's a new one: research suggests that happy events in their lives may make them feel sick later on.

The culprit appears to be stress that arises when good fortune, such as finding a sweetheart or landing a promotion, forces them to reassess their low self-images, researchers said.

"If you think of yourself as basically a loser, and all of a sudden you're accepted in the best sorority in town, and you're doing really well in school — you're forced to rethink some key aspects of who you are," said researchers Jonathan Brown.

Support for the idea comes from two studies conducted by Brown, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Washington, and Kevin McGill of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The work appears in the December issue of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

One study included 261 students in grades 7 to 11 at a girls' school in the Los Angeles area, and the other focused on 107 students at Southern Methodist. Researchers measured the self-esteem of the students and asked them which "major life events" from a list had occurred to them over the previous 12 months.

The list included such events as breaking up with a girlfriend or boyfriend, or getting a new one, or losing or adding a family member. The positive, negative or neutral.

In the girls' school study, students were asked four months later about illnesses they developed since completing the survey. For students with low self-esteem, the more positive events they had recorded, the more colds, sore throats, sinus infections, car infections and laryngitis they tended to report during the follow-up period.

14-year-old Potentials Unlimited Inc. of Grand Rapids, has among his 200 titles bust enlargement and birth control ("If you create a thought that you will not get pregnant, you will not get pregnant" is one message.)

A 1981 protest by the US Food and Drug Administration forced

Drug summit communique

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): US and Latin officials are close to agreement on a communique for next week's drug summit pledging US help to revamp the drug-dependent economies of Peru, Bolivia and Colombia, sources say.

The communique to be signed at the four-nation meeting also would commit US President George Bush to press other Western nations to provide economic aid to the Andean nations, said a South American diplomat.

speaking on condition of anonymity.

The document is being prepared for the signatures of the four presidents — Bush, Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Alan Garcia of Peru and Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia — who will meet Feb 15 in Cartagena, Colombia, to discuss the problem of drug trafficking.

US military assistance to the Andean countries is not spelled out in the document, but the

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Latin leaders have insisted it be restricted to equipment and training rather than direct US military involvement in interdiction, said the South American diplomat.

Those familiar with the document described it as broad in tone, without specifying how much money the United States would give the Latin nations in exchange for their participation in cracking down on drug production and trafficking.

However, the document will get into specific issues regarding interdiction and military cooperation, economic alternatives to the drug trade, and efforts to get other countries aid in the anti-drug effort, said Michael Skol, deputy assistant secretary of state for South American affairs.

"We're very close" to agreeing among the countries on final wording, Skol said yesterday.

Noriega accounts frozen in UK

MIAMI, Feb 9, (UPI): A federal judge ruled yesterday Mangel Noriega can be tried on drug charges, despite his lawyer's claims the deposed Panamanian dictator could not be prosecuted because he is a prisoner of war.

Noriega, who surrendered to US forces invading Panama in December, was held in a US military prison in Cuba, but US district judge William Hoeweler rejected the defence claim that Noriega's prisoner-of-war status under the Geneva Convention would prohibit him from being tried in the United States.

He said the POW question is "a parallel issue" to the criminal charges and a matter of policy that does not concern him in his capacity as a federal judge. He said he saw no reason to grant a request by defence attorneys Frank Rubino to relinquish jurisdiction of the case.

"The motion will be denied," Hoeweler said. "Many of the questions you present are really questions of policy. I do not feel I am either competent or have the authority to decide. In any event, I do not find under the Geneva Convention that I have to divest myself of this case."

Meanwhile, Britain's High Court froze Noriega's bank accounts yesterday in that country, the Crown Prosecution Service said.

The accounts, whose assets were not specified, were frozen under the drug trafficking act. No other details were given.

Yesterday's hearing was to determine, among other things, when a realistic date could be set for trial. Hoeweler originally set the trial for March 5 to comply with federal speedy trial statutes, but at the time anticipated delays.

Assistant US Attorney Pat Sullivan told Hoeweler the government's case could be ready for trial by the end of the year. Rubino said the defence would be ready in 18 to 24 months. Both sides estimated the trial would last about a year.

"I think the important thing in this case is that we not let it flounder. — This case is too important to let it drift," he said.

Hoeweler did not immediately rule on a new trial date. He also said he would conduct another hearing in about three weeks on whether to honour the requests of some defendants to be tried separately from Noriega, and said he planned to rule on the government's appeal of the \$1 million bond awarded to co-defendant Daniel Miranda.

Rubino is asking Hoeweler to relinquish jurisdiction over the case, argued that Noriega was brought to the United States illegally. He said the government used military power to catch a man who was accused of criminal acts.

The defence lawyers argued yesterday that background checks and other requirements for getting access to classified information are unnecessary and would give the government an unfair advantage.

The lawyers raised the issue at a status conference before Hoeweler, who said he would rule on the issue next week.

The Justice Department has asked Noriega's lawyers to sign an order agreeing to notify the government before they share classified information with their clients. Prosecutors say the protective order is necessary to preserve national security.

Konicov to soften his medical claims. He stands by his tapes, one million to two million copies of which sell each year worldwide in bookstore chains.

"Look, it's a \$10 tape," he said, adding that the company offers a money-back guarantee.

Two-thirds of the Colombians questioned said their superpower partner was not "a real friend" and felt the United States was "using the drug problem as a way to exercise control over the Colombian government." More than half said the United States should butt out of what they considered an internal matter.

At the same time, a majority of US citizens questioned Colombia's willingness to root out the billion-dollar cocaine trade. Three out of four said the Latin American country could not beat the drug cartels without US help and 70 per cent said the Colombian government was losing the drug battle.

The survey was conducted by the Washington Post and the ABC television network revealed strong distrust of US motives in the drug battle among a majority of Colombians, intensified by the US invasion of Panama in December.

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\$300 billion involved in global laundering

Curb Achilles heel of drug dealing: call

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): Laundering money from cocaine sales and a host of other criminal activities represents a \$300-billion worldwide business each year, but could prove the drug trade's key area of vulnerability, a US Senate report said yesterday.

"Because money laundering is principally accomplished through the use of legitimate financial institutions, money laundering is the potential Achilles heel of the illegal drug business," said the report from two Senate panels.

The report released by Sen. John F. Kerry was based on testimony

before the Senate Foreign Relations and Banking Committees last fall. It attributed to Assistant Treasury Secretary Salvatore Martocchio the estimate that world-wide drug revenues total \$300 billion annually, including \$110 billion generated in the United States. It said laundering all of this cash presents tough problems for criminals.

For example, \$100 billion in \$20 bills, a denomination often used in drug transactions, would weigh 26 million pounds (11.7 million kilograms), the report said.

A money laundering operation in New York shut down earlier this



Endara visits Colon

Panamanian President Guillermo Endara is greeted by female workers from a textile plant in Colon, Panama's second largest city Feb 8. Endara spent a day in Colon, which suffers serious unemployment, crime and social injustice. (Reuter wirephoto)

Poll on drug fight

Americans, Colombians differ

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (Agencies): While the United States and Colombia have resolved to work together in combating the drug trade, citizens of both countries disagree fundamentally on how that should be done, a poll showed today.

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year required a tractor-trailer to haul away \$19 million in small bills," it said.

It said the 1970 Bank Secrecy Act is working as a deterrent to money laundering through US financial institutions. The measure requires the institutions to report cash deposits of \$10,000 or more.

The report said, however, that drug traffickers "continue to use foreign banks and foreign branches of US banks to launder US drug profits."

It said Switzerland, Canada, the Bahamas, Luxembourg, Panama and Hong Kong are among the main countries where money is laundered. It also said criminals are pushing to develop money laundering centres in a number of tiny countries, including from Andorra to Vanuatu.

The report said illicit funds are sometimes accepted in large cash deposits by corrupt bank employees. It said funds sometimes are "laundered through seemingly legitimate businesses that appear to generate substantial amounts of cash. And often they are transferred to banks that are not overly curious about the source of the funds."

"After the money has gone through one or more 'wash cycles,' it can be transferred into a legitimate US business, the report said.

The report said part of the scandals that have shaken the savings and loan industry in the United States involved thefts by organised crime organisations.

"Significant funds generated from (savings and loan) theft have been laundered beyond US borders through offshore bank secrecy havens," the report declared. "These funds now represent an enormous endowment devoted to the support of organised crime."

It said the success of efforts to stem money laundering through US banks has turned launderers toward unregulated financial institutions, such as money transmitters, check-cashing stores and currency exchanges.

The report said the government currently has no policy on control of international electronic transfers of US funds.

"As a consequence, money launderers retain a choice of methods to conceal their laundered funds through international wire transfers, including informal channels involving fax machines, telex, personal computer networks and ordinary telephone instructions which do not leave the paper trail which would allow investigators to follow the flow of funds," it said.

In Paris, French Finance Minister Pierre Berezgouy said bankers yesterday watch out for illicit drug money and said a new law would make it easier for them to report their suspicions.

The law, to be debated in Parliament later this year, will relax traditional secrecy rules and allow bankers, insurers, stockbrokers and money changers to pass on details of dubious deposits to the authorities for checks.

Information would be used to prosecute launderers of drug money, who pass an estimated \$90 billion a year through Western banks.

CFCs being absorbed into earth, oceans

PORTLAND, Oregon, Feb 9, (AP): Ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons are being absorbed by the soil and oceans, according to scientists who say they still don't know where exactly the chemicals are going or what the process means.

Researchers Aslam Khalil and Reinhold Rasmussen were studying Australian termite mounds to see how they dumped the gas methane into the atmosphere when their measurements indicated that the soil was absorbing CFCs.

Khalil, a physicist at the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology, said tests have yielded the same results in Brazil and

China.

The process may have only a minor effect on the atmosphere, but to Khalil it suggests that CFCs' interaction with the environment is more complex than has been thought.

"I don't think, on a global scale, this will be significant, but compare the greenhouse gases," he said. "They have only a minute effect by themselves. What's important is their additive effect."

Two other atmospheric scientists, F. Sherwood Roland of the University of California, Irvine, and Mario Molina of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, agree the mechanism of chlorofluorocarbon absorption by the soil

may be worth studying, but say the effect on the atmosphere is minimal.

"It's not a process that's materially shortening the chlorofluorocarbon lifetime in the atmosphere," Roland said.

The ocean appears to be merely storing the CFCs, the scientists said.

"CFCs are permanently lost in atmospheric process but in the ocean that's not so. It's just dissolving," said Khalil.

The oceans' capacity is huge, so it's possible "they will build up over a very long time scale, on the order of thousands of years," Roland said.



Victims of oil spill

Dead oil-soaked birds are stacked in boxes at a lifeguard station Feb 8 where a cleaning station has been set to save birds and other wildlife contaminated by oil from tanker American Trader. Flight Volunteers feed one of

Mandela may be killed in backlash

White extremists threatening armed struggle

CAPE TOWN, Feb 9. (Agencies): White right-wing extremists in South Africa have threatened to kill black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela after he is released from prison. Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said yesterday.

"Threats from the right are well known. I believe Mr Mandela is aware of these threats and he is taking them into account," Vlok told reporters in Cape Town.

President F.W. de Klerk last week lifted a 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement and promised to free Mandela, its jailed figurehead, from life imprisonment.

De Klerk's announcements triggered a furious right-wing backlash with the white supremacist Conservative Party planning marches to demand a whites-only election and shadowy neo-Nazi groups threatening armed resistance.

In 1988, Barend Strydom, the self-proclaimed leader of a group called the White Wolves, mowed down several black pedestrians in Pretoria with an automatic rifle.

He was sentenced to death but his shooting spree was hailed by ultra-conservative whites as a heroic defence of their values.

De Klerk has not said when Mandela, 71, will be released, but government sources told Reuters it should be within a week to 10 days and could be before the weekend.

Mandela has served 27 years of a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule.

The sources said arrangements for his safety were among the issues delaying his release.

Vlok said police were aware of regular threats to Mandela's life since the possibility of his release was first publicly discussed about five years ago.

"We are very concerned... Mr Mandela's life has been threatened from the right and from the left, from within his own ranks."

He said threats from the left were... from within the ANC, yes, and from the black community. Especially over the last year or two years there has been information coming through about factions that don't like the role Mr Mandela has been playing.

Cheryl Carolus, spokeswoman for the pro-ANC United Democratic Front, dismissed Vlok's claim of a left-wing threat and said "if anything, the black community will protect him."

She said Vlok was using the allegation of a leftist threat to delay Mandela's release in an attempt to divide the ANC.

"Nelson Mandela is the most widely respected leader of the black community. Our fear for him is from the right, from people like the AWP (Africaner Resistance Movement). The police must do their job and ensure that nothing happens to him," she said.

Vlok declined to give evidence of the threats, which he said had been reported to him by security policemen.

"It has been happening over the years, but from the right it has happened more often recently because their threats are mainly centred around his release," Vlok said.

Sources close to the Mandela family said the veteran ANC leader was reluctant to accept police security after his release from the Victor Verster prison farm.

"He does not want to spend a moment longer than he has to in their company. He says he just wants them to turn the key and he will walk out and never look back," one recent visitor said after seeing Mandela.

Twenty-two senior anti-apartheid leaders held political consultations today with Mandela in what they hoped was the last such strategy session before he is freed.

The delegation — the largest yet to see Mandela at his house at Victor Verster prison farm — included most members of the executive committee of the United Democratic Front, a nationwide anti-apartheid coalition.

Murphy Morobe, one of the Front's chief spokesmen, said on his way into the prison farm that he was "very hopeful" this could be the last meeting in prison between Mandela and South African activists.

The Rev Jesse Jackson, a black US civil rights leader and former presidential candidate, plans to meet Mandela on Monday as part of his 12-day visit to South Africa. The government has not confirmed that this meeting will take place, nor has it confirmed reports that Jackson also will meet De Klerk on Monday.

De Klerk must put his political future on the line if he wants to save South Africa, Jackson said.

"His challenge now of course is to do a big thing. It requires that he be more than a politician, that he be a statesman, willing to pay the ultimate price in terms of personal politics for his nation," Jackson said in an interview.

"Great leaders do not follow opinion polls, they mould opinion polls. Mr. De Klerk's party is in power now, he has the power if he has the will and the vision to in fact establish the framework for a new South Africa."

While the moves have been welcomed by the anti-apartheid movement as an indication that De Klerk is serious in his pledge to enfranchise the black majority, many white South Africans who voted for him in elections last September say the President has betrayed them.

"Take care that you do not lose your own constituency, for without it you are doomed," the pro-government citizen newspaper warned De Klerk in a recent editorial.

In his first public message home since Pretoria declared him a "non-person" 12 years ago, exiled former newspaper editor Donald Woods warned white South Africans Wednesday they are victims of "official lies."

Woods — a central character in the Richard Attenborough film "Cry Freedom" — was writing in the daily Dispatch, the morning newspaper he edited.

Namibia was formerly called South West Africa.

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Jackson visits Soweto

American civil rights leader, Jesse Jackson, holds a black baby during his tour of Johannesburg's Soweto township on Feb 8. Jackson is on a 10-day visit to South Africa. (Reuters wirephoto)

UN to hold summit

Bid to end kid deaths

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 9. (UPI): Six countries announced plans yesterday to hold a meeting of world leaders aimed at drawing up strategies to prevent the daily deaths of an estimated 40,000 children around the world.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he will send invitations to all heads of state and government to meet in New York Sept 29-30 for what he described as a "historic meeting" to serve the needs of children.

"People everywhere should think how they can contribute to that meeting," Perez de Cuellar said in announcing the two-day conference that is being prepared by representatives from 22 countries, including China, Bangladesh, the United States, the Soviet Union and Zimbabwe.

The six countries, headed by Canada, that initiated the summit meeting said in a news conference attended by Perez de Cuellar that children will not take part in the meeting, which aims rather

to secure an unequivocal commitment from political leaders to serve the young population.

"Our three presidents and three prime ministers have dared to dream the seemingly impossible, too," said Canadian UN Ambassador Yves Fortier. "They dream of a world in which parents are not — each day — confronted with the tragedy of burying some 40,000 children."

Fortier said it will be a "summit of do-able things" with no extravagant cost and which will involve deeply UN specialised agencies that have been dealing with issues related to child welfare.

Besides Fortier, the UN ambassadors from Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden also attended the news conference announcing the convening of the "world summit for children."

The purpose of the conference will be to promote a strong commitment, at the highest government levels to strategies for ensuring the protection and survival of children around the world.

Budd's killer jailed

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Feb 9. (AP): A 24-year-old man with at least seven previous theft and fraud convictions was sentenced yesterday to 12 years in prison for the shotgun murder of Frank Budd, father of distance runner Zola Budd.

Christian Barnard, who could have been sentenced to life in prison, was described by Supreme Court Justice A.P. van Coler as a dishonest witness. But the judge said there was a reasonable possibility that Barnard had been provoked into the killing because Budd made sexual advances toward him.

Barnard also was convicted of stealing a pick-up truck from Budd's farm.

Budd, 59, when he was killed last September, was a homosexual, according to associates and family members.

Zola Budd said after his death that his homosexuality was a factor in her parents' separation in 1984 and subsequent divorce. She had very little contact with him after the divorce, and did not invite him to her wedding last year.

Because of her father's British ancestry, Ms Budd was able to obtain a British passport and compete in the 1984 summer Olympics in Los Angeles. South Africans are barred from the Olympics and most international competition because of the government's racial segregation policies.

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Burma seizes rebel base

RANGOON, Feb 9. (AP): After 10 days of fighting, Burmese troops have overrun Three Pagoda Pass, the stronghold of an ethnic minority rebel group and a major smuggling centre along the Thai-Burmese border.

A military spokesman said today. Thai authorities, confirming the capture, said 3,000-5,000 civilians had fled into Thailand to escape the fighting, which was continuing.

The capture came as rebels of the New Mon State Party and the Karen National Union were preparing to celebrate their national days. Foreign reporters in Bangkok had been invited for the festivities and to a news conference at Three Pagoda Pass this weekend.

Col Than Tun told reporters that 16 government soldiers were killed and 42 others wounded in five major clashes leading to the capture of the border town yesterday. He said 20 rebel bodies were counted.

Than Tun said mopping-up operations were continuing in the area, 270 kilometres (168 miles) southeast of Rangoon and 280 kilometres (174 miles) northwest of Bangkok, the Thai capital.

The Mon and Karen are among a number of ethnic groups fighting for greater autonomy from the central government, dominated by the Burman majority.

Col Leticia Pinthong of Thailand's border patrol police said fighting was continuing at a Mon Military camp about three kilometres (1.8 miles) from Three Pagoda Pass. He said Thais living in a nearby village had fled from their homes and some wounded from the fighting were being treated at hospitals inside Thailand.

Escalated

The border police also reported escalated fighting at Kaw Moo Ra, further north along the Thai-Burmese border. Burmese troops have been trying to seize that Karen base and have stepped up artillery and mortar barrages in recent days, the police said.

In recent months, a Burmese offensive has crippled the Karen rebels. A string of Karen military bases along the border has been overrun, although the Karen headquarters at Manerplaw has not been attacked.

The remote town of Three Pagoda Pass included a thriving marketplace, warehouses brimming with smuggled goods and the Mon headquarters. A number of Karen also lived in the area.

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N. Korea nuke bid concerns Japan

TOKYO, Feb 9, (Reuters). Japan today expressed serious concern at a scientist's report that North Korea seems to be expanding a nuclear facility that could enable it to build nuclear weapons.

Professor Toshimichi Sakata of Tokyo's Tokai University said computer analysis of satellite pictures taken more than three years apart showed the North Koreans had put up a large new building at the facility north of Pyongyang and constructed access roads.

"Our findings are probably the first to confirm Western intelligence reports about North Korea's progress in building a nuclear reactor," Sakata told Reuters.

"Once the plant is running, they'll be able to extract plutonium and make nuclear weapons," he said.

The scientist said the London-based Jane's defence weekly last year reported that this could happen within the next five years.

After reports of Sakata's findings appeared in Japanese newspapers today, a government spokesman was asked at a regular news conference whether Japan saw a threat in the North Korean facility, located in the region of Nyonbyong, about 90 km (56 miles) north of Pyongyang.

"We are very concerned," said the spokesman, deputy chief cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishihara. "But at the present stage we have no confirmed information."

"It is impossible to determine whether the facility is for military purposes or peaceful purposes," Sakata, who heads the private Tokai University Research and Information Centre, said he had not informed the government before making his findings public.

"I am under no obligation to report my findings to the government," he said.

"The reporters who covered my group's findings informed the Foreign Ministry and other offices, I presume. I've heard nothing from government officials regarding this matter."

Sakata said his team had compared two sets of photographs of the Nyonbyong site taken by the French spot satellite in 1986 and in 1989.

"The June 1986 photo shows construction was taking place. In the photo taken in September 1989, we were able to see that the installation area had increased substantially in size, including roads and a large building."

Japanese newspapers said communist North Korea, with Soviet help, had constructed a nuclear plant for research purposes in the Nyonbyong area in the mid-1970s. The original plant's capacity was estimated at 2,000-4,000 kilowatts.

Nearly 37 years after an armistice ending a bitter war between the two Koreas, Pyongyang has still not signed a peace treaty either with the anti-communist South or with the United States, which led a UN international force backing Seoul.

Taiwan free for all

TAIPEI, Feb 9, (Reuters). Taiwan legislators kicked, punched, and screamed their way into a new session today as the opposition stepped up demands for the resignation of ageing members.

Opposition legislators fought with delegates appointed to represent overseas Chinese communities, attempting to keep them from attending a swearing-in ceremony.

The ceremony began even while the legislators were still screaming and fighting. An aide to one of the overseas Chinese representatives yelled at protesters: "If I were in America now I'd take my gun and shoot all of you."

During the singing of the national anthem, opposition member Wu Yung-Hsiung leapt onto the podium and started screaming abuse at the overseas Chinese delegates.

Even after he was dragged down Wu, wearing a bright orange costume festooned with slogans, continued to scream as legislators raised their arms to be sworn in.

Only 101 members of the legislature were selected on Taiwan.

The majority — some 162 — represent the seats they were first elected in in China before the ruling Nationalist Party fled to Taiwan from the Communist victory on the mainland in 1949.



A satellite picture, taken by the French Spot satellite on Sept 16 shows North Korea's progress in building a nuclear reactor.

Alliance born

Seoul power game

SEOUL, Feb 9, (Reuters). Three formerly bitter contenders for power in South Korea stood hand-in-hand on a Seoul stage today, launching a new ruling conservative coalition to dominate the country's political life through the 1990s.

The new Democratic Liberal Party, forged in a surprise deal last month and patterned after Japan's long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was attacked by opponents as anti-democratic and unethical. In a show of unity rare in South Korean politics, President Roh Tae-woo was joined by two former opposition leaders, Kim Young Sam and Kim Jong-Pill, at the birth of new party, beginning its life with more than a two-thirds majority in parliament.

"Let us forget about the turbulence of the past and look forward to the future," Roh told several thousand guests at a reception to celebrate the party's birth.

The reception in a cavernous convention centre in south Seoul followed an afternoon ceremony formally inaugurating the party, and naming Roh and the two Kim co-leaders. The party will be legally registered on Feb 15.

Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung, now the odd man out in South Korean politics, condemned the new party as a political coup d'etat against the people.

"Today will go down in history as the national day of humiliation at the cost of democracy," Kim Dae-Jung, for decades the country's best-known dissident leader, said in a statement.

"We demand an end to this anti-national, anti-democratic and unethical scheme," he said.

In Kim Dae-Jung's southwestern stronghold of Kwangju, a centre for dissident politics, police fired tear-gas to disperse 1,000 radical students protesting against the new party, the Yonhap news agency said.

Police in Seoul also reported a few small protests against the new party on campuses in the capital.



Stones set to conquer Japan

Accompanied by six sword-toting Samurai warriors, the Rolling Stones met 200 clapping, whistling reporters and photographers in Tokyo on Friday ahead of the group's first concert in Japan.

"We're so happy to see so many people come to welcome us," lead singer Mick Jagger (standing next to an actor dressed as a Samurai) said.

He said the band would add another date to the nine concerts already planned for Tokyo's 'big egg', the famed baseball stadium. All nine dates are sold out and ticket scalpers are already reaping a windfall.

This is the first time in its 27-year history the rock'n'roll group will play in Japan.

Cheney to begin troops cut tour

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (Reuters). Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will carry a tough message to South Korea, the Philippines and Japan in the next two weeks: shrinking US budgets and a reduced Soviet threat will mean fewer US troops in the Pacific.

"We don't see major cuts immediately, but there will be reductions in our forward deployed forces in the Pacific over the next five years," said one US defence official in advance of Cheney's trip beginning tomorrow.

Cheney will fly to Hawaii for a rest stop before going to Seoul next Wednesday. He will also visit Manila and Tokyo for talks with senior government officials on troops, bases, military spending and strategy before returning home on Feb 24.

Defence officials said the talks will include issues such as proposed cuts in the 45,000 US troops in South Korea, increased Japanese financial support for 50,000 US troops now stationed in Japan and the shaky future of two key US bases in the Philippines — Clark and Subic Bay.

"The world situation, especially in Eastern Europe, is changing minute-by-minute," said one of the officials, who asked not to be identified. "That makes planning difficult, but it also makes the prospect of force cuts easier."

The officials said Cheney would stress that Washington valued its friends in Asia and the Pacific as much as its historic ties with West European allies.

Cheney said in a recent interview that there had been no apparent reduction in North Korea's threat to South Korea and that the United States would maintain a solid force in the south, where the 2nd Infantry division and 7th Air Force are based.

In Seoul, a senior government official said no agreements on troops cuts were expected to be concluded during Cheney's visit, but that an announcement to withdraw an additional 5,000 soldiers by the end of 1990 was conceivable.

The Thai intelligence officer said the troops were disgruntled at the contrast between their harsh lives in the jungle fighting the Khmer Rouge and the easy, highly profitable lives of traders and officials in the port town.

tough, Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge.

Koh Kong only about 10 miles (16 km) from Trat by sea, is the country's second-largest port after Kompong Som and the main access route for consumer goods from Thailand.

The Thai intelligence officer said the troops were disgruntled at the contrast between their harsh lives in the jungle fighting the Khmer Rouge and the easy, highly profitable lives of traders and officials in the port town.

A detachment of loyal soldiers has gone in pursuit," he said.

Some of the soldiers, however, seized fishing boats in the harbour and fled out to sea, apparently headed for Kompong Som, Cambodia's largest port, about 100 miles (160 km) to the southeast, the officer said.

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Chinese communists to hang on to monopoly

'Western democracy plaything of the rich'

BEIJING, Feb 9, (Agencies). China's Communist Party said there can be no change in its leading role. Without the party in control, the nation would sink into chaos, said a strongly worded editorial in the party's official People's Daily, yesterday.

The statement came as the Soviet Communist Party in Moscow voted to end its constitutional guarantee of leadership.

The commentary was an obvious rejoinder to events in the socialist world, although it made no mention of the Soviet Union or rapid reforms in Eastern Europe. Instead, it branded Western democracies as playthings of the rich.

China's conservative leaders have suppressed all dissent and criticism of the Communist Party since calling in the military to crush the student-led democracy movement last spring.

Leaders reportedly are deeply concerned that events in East Europe and the Soviet Union could rejuvenate popular uprising to the government.

"In China, without the strong leadership of the Communist Party, new turmoil and wars would surely arise, the nation would be split, and the people, not to mention state construction, would suffer again," the editorial said.

It said Communist Party rule was "endorsed and supported by the whole nation rather than proclaimed" by the party.

The "elite" who stirred up the "counter-revolutionary rebellion" official terminology for the Tiananmen Square movement of last spring sought to dislodge the party and establish "Western-style parliamentary democracy," it said.

"Some people," it said, "always think that the parliamentary democracy in the West is advantageous."

But it said Western democracies are controlled by the rich and "the broad masses of working people have never had the right to take part in the administration of state affairs."

It added: "Those who have more money will have more freedom and have more right to talk in the democracy. Such democracy means nothing to those who do not have enough to eat."

Western diplomats said China and the Soviet Union, the world's two communist giants, stood on the brink of a new ideological rift.

Meanwhile, China and the Soviet Union began a second round of talks today aimed at reducing troop levels along their 7,000-km (4,300-mile) common border.

The Soviet embassy said the talks on cutting military forces and armaments along the border will continue until Feb 22.

An embassy official said the Soviet delegation is led by G.V. Kiryev, chief of the Foreign Ministry department for socialist countries in Asia, and consists of six diplomats and six military experts.

China announced stiff new regulations today to control student activities in a move diplomats said was a knee-jerk reaction to dramatic political changes in the Soviet Union.

Students will be required to take part in various prescribed, unspecified activities and will need an excuse to abstain, and unauthorised student publications are banned under the harsh new rules.

China said it would not accept "wanton" US government attacks on its human rights record, and warned that a State Department human rights report "could do further serious harm to Sino-US relations."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Jin Guhua, at a weekly briefing, also said the US-based human rights organisation Asia Watch's charges of widespread human rights violations in China were "utterly groundless."

A senior US official strongly defended the Bush administration's policy towards China and said Beijing had taken steps in the right direction since it cracked down against pro-democracy demonstrators last June.

But the official, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee there was still no "business as usual" with Beijing and US sanctions imposed last June remained essentially in place.

The nationally televised evening news reported at length but without commentary on the Soviet Communist Party meeting.

However, it made only passing mention at the end of the four-minute report to the decision to abolish the party's "leading role," and instead quoted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other leaders as defending socialism and the party.

It was the first detailed report in China's official media of the Soviet meeting. A Shanghai newspaper Monday ran a brief report without saying the party's guaranteed leadership was at issue.



Hospital workers attend to some of the 22 workers injured after the earthquake hit Cebu. (Reuters wirephoto)

Quake rocks Cebu

22 injured in central Philippines

MANILA, Feb 9, (AP). A strong earthquake rocked the central Philippines yesterday, spilling a barrel of tar that injured about 22 construction workers, reports from the area said.

Several people were bruised as panicked shoppers rushed for the exits of one of Cebu's largest department stores and one woman who fainted was taken to a hospital, witnesses said.

Some women clutching their children were injured as they fled, the witnesses added. Security guards immediately locked the doors to prevent looting.

A major traffic jam developed as people also ran out of homes, offices and schools in the initial swaying, and electric power supplies were cut.

The power failure affected large parts of the city and electricity had not been restored more than three hours after the quake struck. But national power corp. officials said there was no damage to power lines.

Initial reports said the earthquake, which struck at about 3:16 pm (0716 GMT), had a magnitude of six on the open-ended Richter scale and was centred

near Camiguin island, about 720 kilometres (450 miles) southeast of Manila, said Bart Bautista, a seismologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Bautista said the earthquake also was felt on Cebu and Negros islands, north of Camiguin, and on the northern tip of Mindanao island, further south.

Edel Binnate, chief seismologist of Cebu, said his office registered an intensity five aftershock followed by at least 19 others of lesser intensity.

About 22 labourers working on construction of the 16-storey Metrobank Plaza building suffered serious burns from heated tar that was to have been used for waterproofing. At least 15 of the workers were hospitalised and one was reported in serious condition.

Attending physicians said workers rushing to leave the building from the 12th floor slipped on the hot tar, which spilled on the floor when the tremor toppled the barrel containing it. Many of those brought for treatment suffered third-degree burns, the doctors said.

Manila parade to show loyalty

Constitution Week marked

MANILA, Feb 9, (AP). Confetti rained yesterday in the financial district of Makati as thousands of people turned out for a civil-military parade to show allegiance to the constitution and unity against future coup attempts.

The event marked the final day of Constitution Week, mandated by President Corason Aquino, who in December survived the sixth and most serious bid by right-wing officers to topple his administration.

Brass bands led about 1,000 soldiers, schoolchildren, government officials and employees in a two-kilometre (1.25 mile) parade through the heart of Manila's financial district, where rebel troops took positions in high-rise apartments and hotels during the Dec 1-7 coup attempt.

At least 113 were killed and more than 600 others were wounded in the December fighting.

About 2,000 workers at the US Subic Bay naval base walked off their jobs yesterday to protest the dismissal of 102 Filipino workers and the downgrading of 165 others under cost-cutting measures.

The workers, belonging to the 36,000-member Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Associations, proceeded to the union's office a block away from the base and later marched near Subic's main gate, where they held a two-hour rally.

On Monday, Roberto Flores, the union's president, said 102 workers had received their termination notices and 165 others were downgraded from full-time to part-time status. He said most of those laid off were senior employees who had served at Subic for at least 15 years.

The affected workers belonged to morale, welfare and recreation department at Subic, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Manila.

"If this is what they are doing (to us), then I think it is better for Filipinos to just close the base," said union vice-president Primo Galvez.

"I feel bad," said Rolando Mesiano, a mechanic at Subic for 28 years, who was among those dismissed. "This is an injustice."

Government forces hunting a communist rebel priest have killed 139 guerrillas in a major operation launched over the weekend in the southern island of Mindanao, the military said yesterday. At least 11 troops have died in the fighting.

Brig. Gen. Rogelio Villanueva, regional army commander, said troops, backed by ancient Tora T-33 planes and helicopter gunships, combed three provinces in search of the Rev. Frank Navarro, the guerrilla commander in Mindanao, 500 miles (800 km) south of Manila.

Villanueva said the fiercest battles took place in Zamboanga del Sur, where 67 guerrillas and eight troops were killed, and in Agusan del Sur, where 62 guerrillas were slain. Ten other guerrillas and three soldiers were killed in Misamis Occidental.

Bombs exploded in two southern cities, police said yesterday a week before regional elections on autonomy aimed at resolving a Muslim separatist rebellion in the largely Christian country.

Police said homemade bombs exploded in three places in the southern port city of Zamboanga, 550 miles (880 km) south of Manila, Wednesday.

Spotting a mafia member

MANILA, Feb 9, (Reuters). Philippine immigration agents are on the look-out for men with fingers missing and intricate body tattoos depicting dragons or samurai warriors.

Immigration commissioner Andres Domingo told reporters on Wednesday she had given customs officials a list of physical characteristics and other signs to help them spot members of the Japanese mafia, known as the Yakuza.

Some intelligence agents have been sent to the United States for training on Yakuza activities, which in the Philippines include drug-running and prostitution.

Domingo said up to half of the Yakuza members had one or two fingers severed at the joint as a form of punishment.

Quoting intelligence studies of the underground crime syndicate, which operates throughout Asia and has spread to the United States, Domingo said some low-ranking members also sported shaven heads or closely cropped hair.

She said high-ranking members were allowed expensive gold watches and bracelets and leaders wore solid gold Yakuza pins when travelling.

Sixty to 70 per cent had "some form of tattoo ranging from ornate designs on the torso to small dots underneath the eyebrows."

The tattoos of flowers, dragons, devils, fishes and ancient warriors often identified the area the members came from.

Some wore gaudily printed back shirts, while others opted for white slacks and white shoes.

ARAB TIMES

Tax row fails to stir up Tokyo voters

TOKYO, Feb 9. (Reuters): Japan's opposition parties have made the government's unpopular sales tax the focus of their general election campaigns, but in one Tokyo district, at least, voters seem unmoved by the noisy controversy.

A walk through Meguro, just west of the capital's busy Shinjuku shopping quarter, shows most citizens expect Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party to scrape back with a narrow majority in the Feb 18 poll.

Opposition loudspeaker trucks boom out calls to abolish the tax, canvassers echo the message as they put their heads into doorways of the small shops that abound in this corner of the election battleground.

But local shopowners and consumers in the third of the capital's 11 electoral districts have grown accustomed to the tax since blazing controversy over it helped push the LDP to an historic defeat in last July's upper-house elections.

Many would not feel secure voting for an opposition candidate solely to register protest over the three percent tax. Voters cite other everyday worries, like the high cost of education, housing and food.

"People here aren't stirred up about the election like before. The consumption tax is already in place," said Yachihiro Ootomo, manager of an optical store.

He said half the local residents were for and half against the tax, which went into effect last April after a full decade after it was first proposed.

Most frustrating for shopowners coping with the new tax at first was chasing after small change. Now cash registers and apron pockets are filled with the detested and almost worthless one yen coins.

One solution has been to round up prices to the nearest five yen, as 65-year-old Hiroshi Imai discovered. He and his wife have run a tiny shop selling coffee and tea for over 40 years.

Similar "mom and pop shops" line the narrow street, punctuated by the garish shopfronts of McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Mister Donuts, but the hardest thing was computing the tax in my head," Imai said.

Even though the pair oppose the tax, currently levied on all purchases, they plan to vote LDP because they believe in its efforts towards internationalisation and liberalisation, he said.

Some see a need for the tax. "When we are old, who will take care of us," said Kei Nagata, 57. "There are fewer children now and pensions are small. The tax is necessary. Without it, I feel insecure."

Nevertheless Nagata would like to see the LDP follow up on its proposal to slash the tax on food.

She and her husband are third-generation owners of a tiny shop where three customers are a crowd.

At present they have to pay the sales tax to each of their two middlemen.

Yet she and her husband will vote LDP.

The sites of two paddies where "sacred" rice will be grown for Emperor Akihito's ritual first communion with the gods, a mystical part of his ascension to the throne, were selected yesterday by the imperial palace.

The ancient selection ceremony was met immediately by criticism from several Christian, academic and leftist groups, which say state backing of the communion rite violates Japan's constitution.

Imperial ritualists dressed in flowing robes and black headgear gathered at three palace shrines yesterday morning, and divided auspicious locations for the paddies by burning sea turtle shells over charcoal.

An official of the imperial household agency, which manages palace affairs, said Akiha prefecture, in northeastern Japan, and Oita prefecture, to the west, were chosen.

Because of security concerns, the exact location of the paddies is not expected to be announced until the rice, to be planted in June, is harvest in September.

E. German hydra

EAST BERLIN, Feb 9. (Reuters): Ninety-nine ordinary East Germans have the job of presiding over the death throes of the dreaded Stasi security police, a monster which reached into all aspects of life under the former hardline communist government.

"Our aim is to make sure it's impossible for the hydra to sprout new heads," said spokeswoman Hannelore Koehler, referring to the Greek mythological creature whose heads grew again when cut off.

"But it's not easy," said Koehler in an interview. "No one in the world has any experience carrying out such a job."

Bush stress on strong defence

'Response to Soviet reforms is stability'

WASHINGTON, Feb 9. (AP): President George Bush claims no regrets over his restrained response to the historic political reforms in the Soviet Union and says he hopes both Moscow and US allies see it as a "stabilising sign."

Bush denied that his emphasising of defence issues during his three days on the road—coinciding with Moscow's dramatic moves towards ending the Communist Party's monopoly on power—was bad timing.

"I think it's fortuitous," Bush told reporters travelling home with him aboard Air Force One. The President was back in the nation's capital after a three-day trip that focused on defence policy, including his call for continued modernisation of US strategic weapons systems.

He watched army war games in the Mojave desert in the western United States, toured the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory near San Fran-

cisco for an update on star wars research and toured the strategic air command headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska.

At SAC headquarters, Bush on Thursday broadcast a message to nuclear-carrying US forces, telling them "the historical changes we are seeing in the Soviet Union are in no small part due to" US nuclear deterrence.

He told reporters later that he didn't think his assertiveness on national policy was out of sync with developments in Moscow "because it sends a clear message that I am behind a sensible defence programme and I'll stay behind it."

"So I hope that message comes through in a balanced way that we are not going to suddenly, drastically change our course away from a reasonable defence programme," Bush said. "So I think the message is one of stability, of reasonableness."

"I'm not going to miss an opportunity in arms

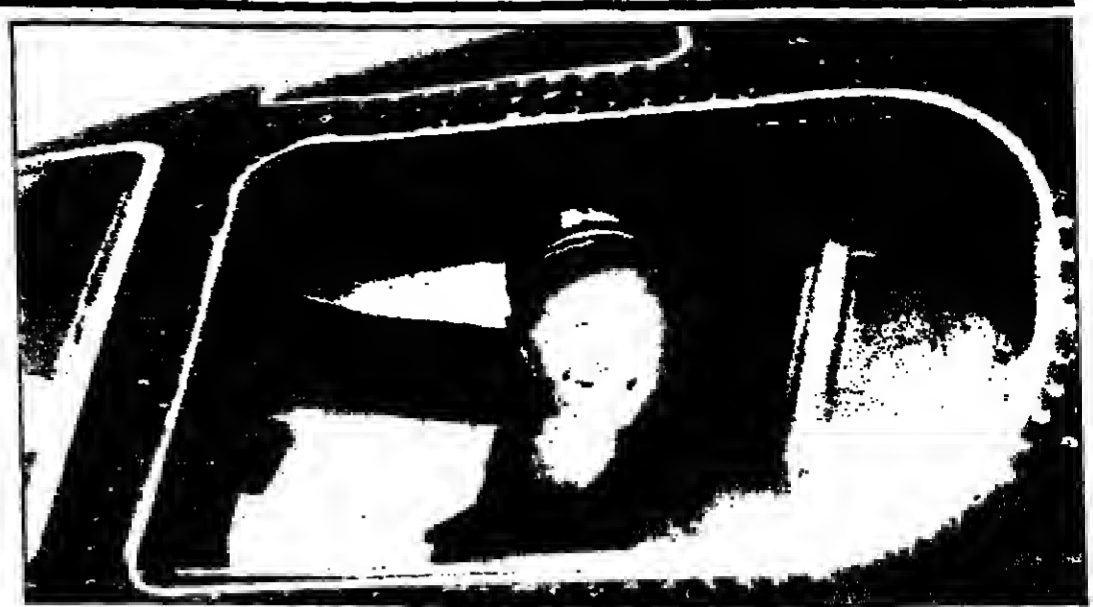
controls, but we're going to keep a strong defence," Bush said he was trying to send a "stabilising message, not a militant message."

"And that's why I think the timing happened to be fortuitous, because we had planned this trip before the Central Committee meeting but it worked out, in my view, very well."

He said he wanted Western European allies to know that the United States was not about to abandon them.

In remarks at a Republican Party fund-raising dinner in Columbus, Ohio, Thursday night, Bush praised Communist Party leaders in Moscow for taking "the first step towards pluralism" and a multi-party system.

Bush said he hopes to negotiate a new trade agreement with the Soviet Union by this summer's summit with Gorbachev in order to help expand markets for US exports.



Bush gives a thumbs-up as he looks out a cockpit window of a B-1B bomber during a tour of Offutt Air Force base. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev pledges to expand reforms

'No split in Politburo': party may lose power, warning

MOSCOW, Feb 9. (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev pledged today to press on with more reforms once he has instituted the sweeping limits on Communist Party power he pushed through the leadership two days ago.

Gorbachev said he had achieved everything he had set out to do at a three-day meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee in which the leadership approved his proposal to end the party's legal monopoly on power.

"Once we have solidified this phase, we will move on," Gorbachev

said before heading into a meeting today with US Secretary of State James Baker, who is in Moscow for talks on arms reduction proposals. Gorbachev denied in his closing remarks at the party plenum that a split has erupted in the ruling Politburo, according to the text of the speech published today.

Gorbachev concluded the three-day plenum on the Central Committee on Wednesday, acknowledging that some Politburo members, differed openly on the reform package that removed the Communist Party's 72-year monopoly on power.

"I would like to say," Gorbachev said addressing his remarks to Central Committee member Nikolai Mal'kov, "that nobody should think that the Politburo has split. This is not the case and we should be striving that this should not be so."

A Soviet adviser, meanwhile, warned in an interview with the official Tass news agency that the Communist Party must reform or lose power to the opponents it has agreed to legalise.

The comments by economist Nikolai Petrakov were the first in which a top official raised the possibility that the Communist Party might actually be in danger of losing its ruling position.

Gorbachev gave a guarded answer when asked by reporters if he would run for President if the country creates a new, stronger office with the president chosen in a contested election.

"Let's wait and see," he said. Looking relaxed as he spoke with a half-dozen reporters, he added that the changes pushed through the Central Committee this week had been in the works since he took power in 1985.

"It certainly would be wrong for the West and everyone to believe we began these changes only in the last few days," he said. "They have been under way since 1985."

On Wednesday, the Central Committee gave Gorbachev nearly unanimous approval of his proposal to strike an article off the Soviet constitution that guarantees the party the role of the country's leading and guiding force. Gorbachev said that from now on the party will have to prove its right to rule.

The Central Committee also gave Gorbachev approval to move up the next party congress, which has the power to choose a new party leadership.

Petrakov told Tass that after the party gives up its guarantee of power the communists may face the possibility of losing power or perhaps even disappearing altogether.

"A choice stands before the party in the conditions of political pluralism: restructure itself and struggle to show in competition its right to be the ruling party, or slide into opposition, may be even to leave the political arena," Petrakov said.

Reformers contend that the party's decision to release its legal grip on power doesn't address the country's main problems—the economic chaos created by seven decades of centralised planning and the party's continued control of society.

Activists called yesterday for further steps to reduce the party's control.

"It is necessary to eliminate party organisations in the army, the police, the KGB, the courts, in all the state institutions," said Yuri Mitunov, a spokesman for a would-be opposition party, the Democratic Union.

Focus on arms cut

Gorbachev, Baker hold talks for four hours

MOSCOW, Feb 9. (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev met for nearly four hours today with US Secretary of State James Baker and said an American proposal for reducing troops in Europe deserves "very serious consideration."

Baker and senior aides were in their third day of talks with Kremlin leaders on arms control and other issues in advance of an expected superpower summit this summer.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said "discussion of the disarmament problem is proceeding very well."

At the start of today's meeting with Baker, Gorbachev praised US President George Bush's latest proposal for cutting the number of US and Soviet troops in Europe.

"It merits very, very serious consideration," he said. The Soviet leader has called in the past for even broader disarmament measures. Asked if Bush should have gone further than to propose leaving 225,000 American and Soviet troops in Europe, Gorbachev said:

"I don't know. It's up to the US government to make its own proposal. It would be good if we co-operate, just as we are co-operating now."

Baker, who ends his visit to Moscow tomorrow, met with Shevardnadze before going to see Gorbachev.

"I think we may speak of progress at the talks," Shevardnadze said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh told Tass, the Soviet news agency, the talks had a "particularly business-like and constructive character."

Baker and Gorbachev, accompanied by close aides, met for an hour and 45 minutes, and the two then met for another two hours without aides.

After a lunch break, Baker said Shevardnadze again. US officials said their focus was on arms control.

With the meeting running late, scheduled news conferences by Baker and Shevardnadze were delayed at least 90 minutes.

Shevardnadze and other Soviet officials have reacted positively to Bush's proposal on limiting superpower troops, tanks and non-nuclear airplanes in Europe.

Bush's proposal included limiting US and Soviet troops in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side. He proposed allowing another 30,000 Americans else-



Baker (right) and Gorbachev enter the conference chamber in the Kremlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet Muslims feel free Reform praised

CAIRO, Feb 9. (UPI): A Soviet Muslim spiritual leader attending a conference in Saudi Arabia praised Kremlin boss Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, which he said had helped improve conditions for Muslims after 60 years of stagnation under communist rule, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported.

"Seventy million Muslims in the Soviet Union are now experiencing a great improvement in their conditions following 60 years of stagnation under communism, and this is due to the official policy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev," said Sheikh Talaat Tajuddin, a grand mufti, or supreme Islamic authority on expounding religious decrees in the Soviet Union, the agency said.

Tajuddin said Soviet Muslims now enjoyed a greater religious freedom than ever before.

"Last year, 50,000 copies of the Holy Quran were printed in the Soviet Union with funds from Islamic countries... also a number of religious institutes have been officially inaugurated," Tajuddin said.

"The number of mosques the Soviet authorities have handed back to Soviet Muslims for use has increased, and many new mosques have also been built," he added.

Tajuddin said Soviet Muslims have been able to preserve their religion and Islamic character, despite "all challenges," and asked for financial support from Islamic states and organisations.

The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia has reported sporadic gunfire from both sides of the border between Iran and the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, and said one person has been killed.

The KGB's deputy chief of the border area, identified only as Maj. Gen. Liliin, told Izvestia that about 200 Iranians and an equal number of Soviets illegally cross the border daily.

Six people opened fire from the Iran side on Soviet border guards on Tuesday and the guards shot back, killing one person, the newspaper quoted Liliin as saying. The Izvestia account was reported by the official news agency Tass yesterday, which was monitored in New York.

Strikes are still crippling the Azerbaijan, almost three weeks after Moscow sent in troops to restore order.

Local Communist Party and government officials had failed to regain control, reports from the region said, and leading members of the radical Popular Front were still at large.

Japan probes fake commemorative coins

TOKYO, Feb 9. (AP): Police officials said yesterday they plan to send investigators to Europe next week to try to trace the source of bogus Japanese gold coins with a face value of \$71 million, Japan's biggest counterfeiting case ever.

A police spokesman, however, declined to reveal the investigators' destination. Japan's Kyodo news service said the investigators would go to Switzerland, from which Japanese coin dealers had imported 103,000 gold coins, all believed to be fakes, since March 1988.

The counterfeit coins were first discovered late last month when a company tried to deposit a batch with a bank, police said. More fake coins have been found since then, including a cache discovered in the vault of the Bank of Japan, the country's central bank, the New York Times reported.

The counterfeiters are of a 100,000-yen, or \$687, coin issued by Japan in 1986 and 1987 to commemorate the 60th year of Emperor Hirohito's reign. Hirohito died in January 1989.

The fake coins, like the real commemorative ones, are made of gold. But because the commemorative issue sells for almost 2-1/2 times the value of the gold content in the coins, counterfeiting could prove lucrative.

"The huge number of the commemorative coins issued is another factor," said Koichiro Ishihara, managing director of the monthly Coin magazine, published in Tokyo. "It would make a challenging job for the authorities to find the fakes among millions of coins in circulation."

The Bank of Japan issued 10 million of the commemorative coins in 1986 and an additional 1 million coins the following year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Weinberger predicts Gorbachev fall: Former US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was quoted yesterday as saying Mikhail Gorbachev would not be able to remain in power beyond the end of the year unless the quality of life improved in the Soviet Union.

Weinberger also told the London-based Lebanese newspaper Al Hayat he believed massive US military cuts would be premature at this stage.

The interview, appearing in Arabic, quoted Weinberger as saying he believed Gorbachev would not be able to last beyond the end of the year unless there were radical changes in Soviet life and the Soviet Union could afford to feed its people. (Reuters)

Prelude to German reunification: West Germany's Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher proposed yesterday that as a prelude to unification the two German states renounce atomic, chemical and biological weapons and guarantee the security of their neighbours' borders.

The issue of German reunification has moved to the forefront of European concern, and West Germany is trying to dismiss fears that a united Germany would endanger the rest of Europe.

In Bonn, meanwhile, a senior West German government official said the situation in East Germany was becoming so critical that the state could face insolvency in days.

The West German government may be forced to give East Germany billions of marks (dollars) in urgent aid to try to salvage the country's collapsing economy, the official said, adding, "the situation cannot be overestimated."

The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, also said state authority was eroding so rapidly there were doubts it could hold on until multiparty elections on March 18. (AP)

France supports German reunification: French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in an interview published yesterday that France does not oppose the reunification of Germany but is against a neutral Germany, which he said would lead to European instability.

"France has recalled that the reunification of the German people is a right," the conservative Paris newspaper Le Figaro quoted Dumas as saying. "It is not going back on that."

The concern of the French government, he said, is the future. To prepare for it, all the problems posed by the present changes in the East must be examined, "notably those involving European security." (AP)

Kremlin extends hand to rebel Lithuanians: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev offered an olive branch to Lithuania's rebel communists and renewed appeals not to break ranks with their Moscow comrades.

"The doors are open, party comradeship has been declared and a hand extended," he said in remarks published yesterday.

Gorbachev, addressing this week's key Central Committee meeting which abandoned the party's monopoly of power, also repeated charges that the Lithuanians failed to understand the implications of the decision to create an independent party. (AP)

Soviet troop withdrawal talks break off: Soviet and Czechoslovak negotiators broke off talks on Thursday in Moscow after the Soviets refused demands they pull out all Red Army troops from Czechoslovakia by the end of 1990, the CTK news agency said.

The official news agency reported negotiations had reached "a deadlock" and the Soviets were not willing to withdraw all 80,000 Red Army troops within a year.

The deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia is the stumbling block, CTK said. (UPI)

Romania supports Palestinians: Romania, a friend of both Israel and the Arab world, expressed support yesterday for Palestinian self-determination but called for the security of all countries in the region to be respected.

In wide-ranging policy statements the Foreign Ministry also said Romania welcomed South Africa's partial lifting of its state of emergency, calling it a step towards ending apartheid and introducing a non-racial, democratic society.

On the Middle East the ministry noted that most Arab countries welcomed the popular uprising which overthrew dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in December. (Reuters)

Hungary and Vatican re-establish ties: Hungary and the Vatican yesterday formally re-established diplomatic relations that were severed in 1945, the Hungarian state news agency MTI reported.

An agreement on restoration of relations was signed in parliament by Hungarian Premier Miklos Nemeth and Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican secretary of state.

Hungary was the second Soviet bloc country to re-establish ties with the Holy See after Poland did so in July.

Relations between Hungary and the Vatican were broken off after the government expelled the Vatican's envoy in 1945. (AP)

Major cuts in forces proposal

VIENNA, Feb 9. (AP): Nato negotiators yesterday proposed sharp cuts in numbers of Soviet and US troops in Eastern Europe, formally introducing US President George Bush's proposal into the ongoing Vienna arms negotiations.

"In our view, all important elements for an agreement have been presented," John Kierulff of the Danish delegation told reporters.

Under revised proposals approved by a high-level Nato task force in Brussels two days ago, the Western alliance called for each side to have no more than 195,000 soldiers stationed in Central Europe.

It also called for the total number of combat aircraft in Central Europe not to exceed 4,700 for each side, plus 500 "air defence interceptors" for each side. The term refers to fighter jets equipped more for defence than offence.

The Western proposals are expected to speed the negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe.

Negotiators meeting in Vienna for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the seven Warsaw Pact countries are under pressure to reach an agreement by the end of the year.

"The 16 Western participants believe that the CFE negotiations must keep pace with the political changes now sweeping the European continent," said a Nato statement presented to reporters by the Danish delegation to the talks. "One area where this is most relevant is manpower."

The Soviet Union has an estimated 565,000 troops stationed in Europe outside its national territory, well over 500,000 of them in the central zone. The United States has some 305,000 troops in Western Europe, with about 250,000 in the central zone.

Under the Bush plan, the United States would maintain an overall limit of 225,000 soldiers in all of the continent, including forces in Britain and southern Europe.

Bush last May had suggested an overall ceiling of 275,000 troops for both sides across the continent.

The talks yesterday were restricted to Central European troop levels.

The Danish statement said the 16 participants had reviewed their positions and felt it appropriate to lower the Western-proposed ceiling for US and Soviet stationed manpower.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has begun a review of Britain's armed forces and defence expenditure because of the demise of communist governments in Eastern Europe, official sources said.

Ex-dy PM barred

ATHENS, Feb 9. (Reuters): Former Socialist deputy prime minister Agamemnon Koutsoyorgas was barred from leaving Greece today in connection with a \$200 million embezzlement scandal.

Three special prosecutors who will try former government officials charged with involvement in the scandal at the private Bank of Crete said they issued the order because they suspected he would flee the country.

Last September Parliament ordered Koutsoyorgas to stand trial for taking bribes from the bank's former owner George Koskotas in exchange for helping to pass a law that would stop an investigation at the bank.

The Swiss federal court opened up bank documents on Thursday to help Greece investigate two accounts held by Koutsoyorgas and his wife Aliki into which Koskotas allegedly deposited \$2 million.



Paul Davies during an interview. (Reuters wirephoto)

Interior Ministry to modernise police force

Joint operation protecting territorial waters

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Interior Ministry undersecretary Major-General Yousif Badr Al Khorafi said the concerned authorities were currently working on a project for modernisation of the Kuwaiti passport and another on organisation of the police force.

Interviewed by Kuna, Badr said a

committee set up for the purpose was bent on the modernisation of the Kuwaiti passport to meet international and Gulf Co-operation Council specifications. He revealed that the committee was considering linking the new specifications with computerised system of the ministry in all the coun-

try's outlets.

Badr said the ministry had submitted to the concerned authorities a draft resolution on organisation of the police force to realise discipline, secure the internal front and maintain communal law and order.

Asked on the ministry's efforts on

combating drugs, Badr said security authorities were doing their utmost in this concern in collaboration with the customs administration and the Ministry of Health and Justice.

He said there was close co-operation between the Interior Ministry, Defence

Ministry and the customs administration on infiltration and smuggling control.

Badr said a joint operation room from the ministry's Coast Guards and the Defence Ministry's navy force was undertaking protection of Kuwait's territorial waters.

Action Line

WE OFTEN hear about Third World countries. Considering Europe, America and other developed countries as First World, could you tell me if there are any Second World countries. What is the criteria for this classification?

Engr. I.H. Shah

THE criteria is development. The developed, industrialised countries like the US, Japan and European countries are considered as the First World; the developing states are slotted as the Third World. Wealthy countries, for instance Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, fall under the Second World category. Such countries have the money but are yet to reach the technological level of the First World.

I WORK in a ministry, drawing a salary of KD300. Am I allowed to bring my wife on a dependent visa or a visit visa? What are the rules for obtaining a dependent visa and a visit visa? What is the salary limit for applying a dependent visa and a visit?

George

THE salary requirement to apply for a dependent visa is KD450 in the public sector and KD650 in the private sector. There is no hard and fast rule about salary requirement to apply for a visit visa. Immigration rules say that a sponsor's salary "must be suitable to cover a visitor's expenses while he/she is in Kuwait." Only the immigration officials can determine the amount that can be considered "suitable."

If a person qualifies under the salary requirements, he can sponsor his wife by submitting an application along with a recent salary certificate, a copy of his wife's passport, two photographs and a duly completed application form. The authorities reserve the right to accept or reject an application.

For a visit visa, in addition to the above documents, a sponsor must submit documentary evidence of relationship.

MY WIFE is on visa No. 20. Her Civil ID card carries the address of her sponsor, which is in another area. She lives with me. Should she change the address on her Civil ID card?

M.G. Isbrat

AS SHE came through the Kuwaiti sponsor, the Civil ID card must bear the address of the sponsor. There is no way to change the address on the Civil ID card. The sponsor's name must be mentioned.

You can try to change — through the sponsor, if he agrees to make the necessary alterations. According to the immigration law, she does not have the right to stay outside the sponsor's house, who is responsible for any domestic he brings to the country.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1976 on a dependent visa. In March 1989, I had my residence transferred to a No. 18. Within 10 months, there were some problems in the company, and the office was closed for a week. It's now three months and it has not reopened, and there is no news from the sponsor. Is it possible for me to change my residence at this stage as I have been staying in Kuwait for 14 years.

Munir

FOR 13 years, you stayed on a dependent visa. This is not taken into account while considering your application for a change of residence. A foreigner must be on a No. 18 visa and should have stayed for 10 years in the country to be eligible to seek a change of residence. This does not apply in your case. Therefore, you are not eligible for a change of residence.

AS THE business in Kuwait is not flourishing, I have been advised to start a business in Dubai. Is it possible to obtain a working visa for Dubai? I would like to go there with a reputed company, or start my own business. What is the procedure of obtaining a visa for Dubai?

M.K. Yakub

IF YOU want to work in Dubai, you must first find an employer who is willing to sponsor you. If you find employment, then the sponsor will issue a visa which would enable you to work in that country. And it is possible to obtain a work visa if you find work in that country. As far as a business is concerned, you must find a partner, a UAE national and go into business with him, like a partner in Kuwait.

I AM an Indian. I would like to change my profession from a driver to a domestic helper, with my boss's permission. Is it true that I have to wait until my residence expires to change my profession as a driver, without leaving the country?

If my boss applies for a new visa, and cancels my residence, how long could I stay here?

Is there any possibility that the ministry might refuse a visa for a second driver for the same sponsor?

After cancelling my residence, if the ministry refuses to issue a visa, what would happen to me?

A. Pandian

THE PROFESSION on a passport can be changed only by your embassy. To do this, you first go to your embassy and apply for a change of profession in the passport. After this has been done, approach the immigration department, with an application from your sponsor, to make the necessary changes. Whether the profession can be changed on the residence papers depends on the ministry; you must go to the ministry and find out if they will do it now or at the time of renewing your residence.

After a visa is cancelled, usually a month's grace period is given, within which the person must leave the country. The ministry reserves the right to accept or reject an application. Therefore, this is upto the immigration department, who will determine, through a complicated process, whether or not the sponsor requires another driver.

If your visa is cancelled, and a second visa is not issued, you will have to go back. You can't stay here without a residence permit.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel 484745.

Human rights commission

Kuwait calls to cut SA links

GENEVA, Feb 9, (Kuna): Kuwait has called upon the developed countries which have large-scale economic relations with South Africa to discontinue and curtail such links as that support was a "support for the policy of apartheid."

Addressing the 46th session of the Commission of Human Rights, H.E. Salem Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Ambassador of Kuwait, observed that continued relations between some of the developed countries and the transnational corporations had helped the racist regime to persist in its policy of apartheid.

"These relations represent narrow egoist interest and therefore need to be condemned and deplored — especially when some of the champions of civilisation and progress and those who advocate human rights and principles ... support the racist regime in South Africa," the ambassador said.

The government of Pretoria, he pointed out, still lives in the myth of racial superiority, which has been condemned by science, religions, and international consciousness because of the nefarious influence it has on human rights.

Kuwait strongly supports the struggle of the people of South Africa until they obtain their humanitarian and fundamental rights, he added.

While welcoming the recent statements by President Frederik W. de Klerk regarding the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, Sheikh Salem called for his release at the "soonest opportunity." "He is the one who has struggled, suffered and languished in prison."

The Kuwaiti delegate also called for an end to the state of emergency in South Africa and release of all political prisoners.

With regard to the co-ordination and co-operation "in all fields" between South Africa and the racist Zionist regime of Israel, the Kuwaiti ambassador pointed out that the bilateral co-operation between these two regimes presented "a dangerous axis in international relations."

"These two regimes are two faces of the same coin," he said.

Expressing support to the recommendations contained in the report of the ad hoc committee of experts on violations of human rights in South Africa, the ambassador called for effective international steps through political and economic sanctions to end apartheid.

He added that events in South Africa as manifest in the numerous demonstrations expressed the indignation of the majority of the people and this also placed a responsibility of the international community to prevent further deterioration of the situation.



Migratory birds in Kuwait

Birds have been migrating since time immemorial and yet the migratory phenomena is complex in its manner to enable birds to find and exploit the best opportunities for breeding and wintering. Kuwait even though it has been known to be a desert has its share of migratory birds.

Sulaibikhat Bay is a shallow, tide-dominated mudflat area bordered by a sandy beach, accumulated through sedimentation from the north, and the salt deposits that form the shallow mudflats originating from the Shatt Al Arak in Iraq.

The richness of various species of fauna attracts migratory birds to spend some or all winter. Thus migratory birds do breed in Kuwait during ideal conditions of the year. Sulaibikhat Bay is thus

strategically important to Arabian wintering birds.

However, until recently, the bay had remained relatively free of large-scale human disturbances. Unfortunately, this scenario is rapidly changing due to the accelerating pace of massive engineering projects that are being developed in the area. Specifically, power station wastes pose a serious long-term threat to such habitats on bird life.

The bird population of Kuwait is indeed a part of our natural world and it will indeed be a pity if we do not strictly become conservationists in this respect.

World-wide the momentum to conserve and protect wildlife and bird-life and other forms of species which are now on the verge of extinction have been vigorously pursued — even at the risk of human life.

Encourage merger of GCC banks: Hamr

Banks in UAE buoyant

THE governor of the United Arab Emirates' Central Bank, Abdullah Al Hamr, has called on GCC countries to encourage the merger of GCC banks with the objective of countering the mammoth banking networks instituted in the international financial markets.

In an interview with a local daily, Hamr said that a GCC bank merger will significantly contribute to the setting up of the GCC joint market and eventually establish a monetary federation among the GCC member states.

Meanwhile, the official denied that the UAE's dirham has been devalued in relation to major world currencies. Contrary to these rumours, the official said that the national currency had realised significant hikes during 1989 which are estimated at 12 per cent against the Japanese yen, 2.6 per cent against the Swiss franc and 3.7 per cent against the Kuwaiti dinar.

He said that firm measures adopted by the Central Bank of the UAE during the period 1982-1986 achieved the merger of three banks in Dubai and in Abu Dhabi, a financial crisis in the UAE's three commercial banks had been averted.

He disclosed that the economic recovery witnessed by the UAE since the second half of 1986 had enabled the banks to settle a lot of suspended debts

and bring about financial stability and give a boost to economic activities and increased turnover in business. He forecast substantial profits for national banks for the year ended 1989.

GNP

Meanwhile, the governor said that the gross national product (GNP) of the UAE has realised a hike during 1989 and accounted for UAE Db 106 billion compared to 89 billion in 1988.

He stressed the Central Bank will practise firm control on activities of commercial banks in United Arab Emirates in order to curb any excesses in extending loans and facilities.

He called on the foreign real estate investors who would like to do business in this sector in the UAE to familiarise themselves with the regulations governing this sector. He specifically pointed out that every emirate has its own regulations in this connection.

Replying to a question, the official said that the free industrial zone at Jebel Ali had witnessed significant activities during the last few years and this provides support to the non-oil activities of the country.

He said that 250 industrial and commercial companies were working in the zone with a total investment of about \$600 millions and 12,000 workers.

The authorities of the free zone had issued about 73 licences in 1989 and national companies

comprise 28 per cent of the total companies working in the free zone at Jebel Ali in addition to about 13 Arab Gulf companies.

He expected that the investment volume during 1990 in the area will reach \$1 billion. He said that this zone is gradually converting into a huge industrial city that benefits from the markets of GCC member states and from the Asian, African and European markets.

Currencies

The governor said that the current situation of GCC national currencies is conducive to unifying these currencies in accordance with the GCC joint economic pact. He said that the foreign exchange rate of five of these currencies are mostly firm viz-a-viz the foreign major currencies and when the member states agreed for unification process no great technical differences were envisaged.

He denied that the Manakh crisis which occurred in Kuwait in 1982 had adversely affected his country's economy, referring that some individuals were exposed to limited losses.

Replying to a question over the investments horizons before the GCC banks in the future, the official said, that the UAE's commercial banks had expanded its investment activities during the last three years and the optimistic spirit is constituting an impetus for expanding their local investment.

Aural-oral skills programme at IBS

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): The English Language Unit (ELU) of the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) launches its new "Improving Aural-Oral Skills Programme" on Feb 10, 1990, and IBS release said today.

The programme is offered in twenty-seven hours over a three week period. It is designed to help participants overcome very specific speech difficulties that usually impede effective communication.

In general, the programme emphasises both the listening and speaking skills, and audio visual educational aid and equipment.

Singer star De Burgh goes solo in Dubai

INTERNATIONAL singing star Chris De Burgh is on his way to the Gulf to give a rare solo performance later this month.

The man who had a massive hit with "The Lady in Red" will be the star attraction at a gala night to mark the Emirates Airline Desert Classic golf tournament in Dubai.

He will take the stage inside a giant marquee at the Emirates Golf Club on February 20 to present the other side of a musician who is in demand around the world.

Normally, De Burgh plays to crowds of thousands, with full musical backing and vocal support.

This time he will be appearing before an audience of 250, with only an acoustic guitar and a piano for company.

His appearance in Dubai is a musical coup for Karl Litten Overseas, organisers of the concert and the Desert Classic. It will be only the third time that he has performed alone since his professional career soared with hits like "Don't Pay the Ferryman" and "High on Emotion."

His other two solo performances in recent times both took place last year — in Birmingham, England at a function to mark the Ryder Cup match between Europe and America, and a charity golf tournament in the Isle of Man sponsored by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE minister of defence.

Spectacular results

Paper praises UAE health achievements

ABU DHABI, Feb 9, (Kuna): A United Arab Emirates (UAE) English language daily today praised the country's achievements in providing medical care to its people.

"It is not an easy task to give full health cover to all (its citizens), some of them living in remote areas, but the UAE has done it showing spectacular results," the Dubai-based Khaleej Times said in an editorial.

The paper was commenting on a recent Health Ministry report that life expectancy had reached over 70 years and infant mortality rate had fallen to 10.8 per cent per thousand or the fourth lowest in the world.

Nominal

"Over the past two decades the rapid socio-economic growth has helped the UAE achieve healthy results," the paper said.

It pointed to the easy access to health and medical facilities, provision of basic health needs, safe drinking water, clean air and surroundings. "It should be noted that the UAE is one of the very few countries to provide health care and excellent medical facilities to its people at a nominal cost," the paper said.

It also urged for efforts to make people more health conscious by combating the effects of a sedate life, overnutrition and smoking and said this coupled with better medical facilities "will further increase the life expectancy of all those living here."

Search on for missing three

AN extensive search is ongoing for three Jordanian men who were lost in the Gulf waters 20 days ago after they left Failaka Island on what was to be a fishing trip.

The trio comprise two brothers and their brother-in-law who live at Failaka Island. The father of the brothers said that the three do not have adequate provisions and their supply of drinking water is only sufficient for a few hours.

The distraught father said that the coast guard has been notified, as also authorities in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran.

The Iranian consul in Kuwait told him that he had contacted Iranian authorities on making enquiries, but so far there were no positive indicators.

The other authorities have reassured him that intensive efforts to locate the boat and its crew are being undertaken.



Science club visited

A delegation of some members to the second conference of Arab Aviation Culture paid a visit to the Kuwait Science Club recently. The delegation toured the different departments of the club and listened to explanations from the secretary-general of the club Dawoud Al Ahmed.

The head of the visiting delegation and the chairman of the International Organisation for Aviation Culture Kamal Najeeb expressed admiration on the progress realised by the club. Picture shows aviation delegates with some members of the science club.

This is to inform everyone that Gloria Ashwell is 40 today.



(Please keep this a secret!)

كنا ونا

Mixed reaction to ban on second-hand car imports

Move will raise prices: dealers

THE recent decision by the minister of commerce to prohibit the import of second-hand cars manufactured two years ago besides the year of manufacture has been received with mixed reactions.

Some praised the decision claiming that it will organise the local trading of cars while others said it will benefit only car agencies and harm the interests of automobile offices that have mushroomed in the country during the last few years.

The decision will be reflected in an increase in price of second-hand cars

and will primarily affect the low income group a section of the people said. However, others welcomed it as a good step which will encourage people to maintain their cars, thereby having a positive effect on the environment.

A broker at the second-hand cars market (hara) Abdullah Al Riyahi said that the decision has not yet taken effect at the hara, but believed that it will reflect in an increase in prices in the coming three months.

He added that there is a large number of cars imported by private automobile offices including cars

imported by agencies and it will be about two years before their stock can be sold. However, he added that car offices, by importing a large number of cars have adversely affected sales at the hara.

Protection

Mohammed Abu Jibara, a dealer said that the decision will serve the interests of car agents, brokers and people who want to sell their old cars. However, the decision also protects purchasers from commercial cheating because cars imported by car offices do not meet with Gulf technical specifications.

Headed that very often it has been observed that these cars are re-built and do not give adequate service and also are the cause of pollution.

A local daily said that prices of second-hand cars will double, negatively affecting the low income group. A careful observer said that the decision puts an end to the happiness of public servants on the increase in social allowance granted by HH the Amir.

A director of a cars office, Abdullah Ibrahim has called on relevant authorities to revise the decision. He said that the decision has come as a surprise to citizens, expatriates and car importers. He cited the case where a car offered for sale at KD6,000 was quoted at KD7,000 the very next day after the issuance of the decision.

Meanwhile, two directors at automobile agencies rejected the findings of the decision of those who claim that it will increase sales of car agencies and cause an increase in prices. They commented that the decision will mainly serve consumers because it will ensure the import of cars meet the GCC technical specifications.

The decision will also reduce traffic congestion because it will reduce damage in cars at roads. The customers of new cars are different than customers of second-hand cars which means that sales of the car agencies will remain the same. They added that GCC technical specifications are being applied to cars imported by the official agencies only but private importers are allowed to import any model of cars without meeting specifications.

They called for protecting agents against the invasion of private importers at the cars market in Kuwait. One of them added that many substandard cars were imported by these private offices. Some American second-hand cars used to be police patrol cars before being imported by these offices. These patrols were painted and exported to Kuwait. It is known that police patrol cars are barged around more than normal, he said. He added that some imported cars were stolen from their owners in USA and imported by Kuwait car offices.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet cable

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): The Amir has received a cable of congratulations on the 20th anniversary of the Organisation of Islamic Conference from the Supreme Soviet Presidium. His Highness sent a reply cable in the name of the OIC thanking the Soviet leadership.

Tunis relief

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Air Force transport planes continued last week transporting relief aid at the government's decision and under HH the Amir's instructions to help the victims of the recent rain storm and flooding in Tunisia. More relief aid will be sent over the coming days.

Ghezali leaves

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghezali left here yesterday concluding an official three-day visit to Kuwait. The visit came at the invitation of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabir Al Ahmed. He was seen off at the airport by Staff Minister for Service Affairs Issa Al Mazidi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shahin and senior Kuwaiti officials.

Jassar returns

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): The Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ahmad Al Jassar returned home yesterday evening after he had represented HH the Amir in the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the Organisation of Islamic Conference held in Jeddah on Wednesday. Jassar had delivered Kuwait's speech on the occasion on behalf of HH the Amir.

League session

BEIRUT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Oman has requested the postponement of the upcoming Arab League Council's session, due next March in Cairo, for three days, diplomatic sources said here today. The sources said that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry was informed by the Arab League General Secretariat in Tunis the acceptance by Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Egypt, Mauritania, Democratic Yemen and Arab Yemen Republic to postpone the session from March 10 to 13 in Cairo.

Weather

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with moderate southeasterly wind with a chance of scattered rain. State of sea: Moderate. High water: 1:00 pm, 12:00 am. Low water: 7:00 am, 7:00 pm. Sunrise: 6:32 am. Sunset: 5:30 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 21°C 70°F. Ahmadi: 17°C 63°F. Faliha: 18°C 64°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 9°C 48°F. Ahmadi: 12°C 54°F. Faliha: 12°C 54°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 19°C 66°F. Ahmadi: 17°C 63°F. Faliha: 17°C 63°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 85 per cent. Ahmadi: 86 per cent. Faliha: 83 per cent.



Visit to Kuna

Sudan's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdul Sanada Farah Thursday visited the Kuwait News Agency headquarters and met with Kuna's Board Chairman and Director General Barges Hamoud Al Barges. During the visit, the ambassador was accompanied by Director-General of Sudan News Agency Mohamed Khojall Salehin who is on a visit to Kuwait within a tour of the Arabian Gulf region. The two sides discussed information relations between the two Arab agencies.

From the courts

Jail term, fine for hashish smuggler

A MAN was sentenced to ten years imprisonment, a fine of KD15,000 and ordered to be deported from the country for trying to smuggle hashish into the country.

The court was told that the accused had arrived from Pakistan via a Kuwait Airways flight. The customs officer's suspicions having been aroused, the suspects only bag was torn apart and around 5-kilogrammes of hashish was recovered.

Thief gets one month

A MAN was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation on being convicted of theft.

The court was told that the accused had previously stolen the key of the cash box of a shop and the owner finding the key and some money missing had intimated the police. Detectives successfully arrested the accused and recovered the key and the stolen funds.

Alleged racketeer released

THE court ordered the release of a man accused of using his position in a company to bring in labourers into the country in exchange for money.

The accused told the court that though he had recruited labourers, he had at no time done this in exchange for money. His statement was substantiated by five workers who had arrived in the country.

3 years RI for car thief

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to three years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation on charges of stealing a car, along with stealing valuables from a number of automobiles.

Police had arrested a man identified as Abdul Aziz who was found driving a stolen car. However, he claimed that he had purchased it from the defendant identified as Abdul.

Investigations revealed that the defendant had indeed stolen the car and was also involved in a string of thefts from parked automobiles.

Traffic accidents

A TOTAL of 500 traffic accidents were reported in the five governorates from Jan 28 until Feb 3, 1990. Hawalli and Farwaniya registered 87 accidents, with 173 in the Capital, 110 in Ahmadi and 30 in Jahra. There were 83 injuries and six deaths.

Petrochem marketing conference March 10-11

THE second conference for the marketing of petrochemical products and fertilisers for GCC states will be held in Manama from March 10-11, 1990.

Mustafa Al Sayed the general director of the Gulf Company for Petrochemical Industries, and head of the conference organising committee stated that the conference aims at upgrading the level of co-ordination among petrochemicals users in the area.

He explained that the conference will discuss several work papers on export operations to international markets and the feasibility of investment in establishing modern and future transportation facilities in this field. The conference will also view the aspects of investing in transformation industries for crude petrochemicals.

Sayed indicated that nearly 300 members will attend the conference in addition to a number of guests from other Arab states. The conference will include a discussion session on sea and land transportation and the role played by concerned authorities in facilitating transport of petrochemical products.

Unicef meeting concluded

MANAMA, Feb 9, (Kuna): The regional meeting of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) representatives and heads of offices for the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region concluded their meeting in Bahrain.

The three-day meeting tackled several issues of concern to children in the Mena region such as plans and priorities for Universal Child Immunisation (UCI). A press release issued here today, explained that UCI was developed to help countries which have not yet achieved the United Nations goal for immunising 80 per cent of their children against six killer diseases by the end of 1990.

Aids meet registration to continue until Feb 11

KUWAIT recognises the debilitating and terminal consequences of Aids and is sparing no effort and funds to address this recent scourge to mankind, an official source said.

Dr Kazem Behbehani, chairman of the Higher Organising Committee for Kuwait's "Third International Conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids)" was quoted as saying that 55 expatriates who had contracted Aids have been deported from the country since 1985, and commented that a very few Kuwaitis were similarly affected.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Informational Committee of the conference Dr Hussain Al Moemen said that a total of 18 Aids cases had been recorded in Kuwait so far.

An official source at Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MOH) said that the Kuwait's Central Blood Bank is still registering those who would like to attend the sessions and seminars to be held on the sidelines of the third conference which is organised by the MOH in co-operation with Kuwait University, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (Kfas) and the Regional Bureau of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for East Mediterranean Countries.

The source lauded the enthusiasm of physicians, technicians and employees of the Ministry of Health to attend the conference's sessions and seminars in addition to the enthusiasm evidenced by the private medical services and students of Kuwait University as well as members of the welfare societies.

He said that the closing date of registration at the premises of the Central Blood Bank will expire at 8:00 pm today while registration at Sheraton Hotel will continue up to Sunday 11.2.1990 till 8:00 pm.

The inauguration ceremony of the conference will take place at Sheraton Hotel on Monday 12.2.1990 at 9:00 am.

About 1,000 people from abroad, including various officials of various ministries and institutions will participate, including 16 well known international physicians who will be presenting relevant research papers.

Two scientific sessions are due to be held during the first day and will focus on the international point of view of the Aids disease. During the second day, the morning session will debate latest medical researches and the evening session will discourse on the pathological symptoms and remedial aspects. On the third day, the conference will discuss two important topics, the first will centre on developments relating to finding necessary preventive vaccines, while the second will focus on the moral and legislative aspects of the Aids disease.

Over and above, the official said, a seminar will be organised at 6:00 pm on the third day and will be opened to the public. The seminar will be chaired by the Minister of Planning and Acting Minister of Public Health, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

The seminar will be attended by Dr. Mohammed Helmi from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Malek Al Badri from Sudan, Dr. Khaled Al Mazkour, a professor at Islamic Shari'a Faculty of Kuwait University and Dr. Hussain Al Moemen, head of Health Awareness Department at Kuwait Ministry of Public Health.

Blazer issue flares further

Students threatened with expulsion

Students threatened with expulsion

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

THE management of the Kuwait English School (KES) has said they will "expel" any student who does not turn up in blazers on Saturday morning. Parents were told by KES principal Mrs Rhoda Muhmoud, at a parent-management meeting on Thursday that children who have said had shot up to KD11, had been reduced to KD12. Parents said the management has promised a further reduction.

Parents were told that they could buy the blazer anywhere they wished provided the garment was embroidered with the school emblem.

Those who attended the meeting said after heated exchange, some parents, who had been insulted, walked out of the meeting. Among those who walked out were some Kuwaiti parents. They said the "matter had not been resolved satisfactorily."

"We did not understand the attitude of placing sale of sub-standard garments before the education of children," parents said.

"We are particularly concerned about the threatened expulsion of 400 children, as reported in some sections of the press, because there are 200 names on the waiting list," said some parents. They were particularly worried because of the GCSE exams, which some students would be sitting for this year.

"This is a public threat, confirming all other threats," they said. One parent stressed that the blazer issue is "not a matter of discipline but is an argument between the school management and parents about how the children are being handled."

The parent said that the problem escalated "due to the management's victimisation of individual kids." "My son was accused by the management and told to 'wear the blazer or get out'," the parent said. Another student was told that "he would not be allowed to take the GCSE exams."

"This sort of treatment has annoyed us," parents said. Parents also claimed that the uniform supplier had on his hands a consignment of blazers, far exceeding demand, and wanted to get rid of them and had sought the management's assistance. "If there was a change in policy, and blazers had become compulsory, we should have been told at enrollment time, and not in mid-term," stressed parents.

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to "store them in plastic bags" when not in use.

Children whose parents have bought blazers, but which have not been delivered, must produce a proof of purchase to stay at school.

The parents said they did not receive any "comprehensible" answer regarding the timing of implementing the rule. The price of the blazer, which some parents said had shot up to KD11, had been reduced to KD12. Parents said the management has promised a further reduction.

Parents were told that they could buy the blazer anywhere they wished provided the garment was embroidered with the school emblem.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING can harm a good man, either in life or death
— Socrates, Greek philosopher (469 BC - 399 BC).

Emphasis on self-reliance

Africa studying political reforms

NAIROBI, (Reuters): While few African countries seem inclined towards political reforms rivaling those in Eastern Europe, they are exploring ways to give their people more say in shaping their lives.

The case for a more democratic approach to social and economic development will top the agenda at an international conference in Arusha, Tanzania, from February 12 to 16.

"The conference will tackle one of the central issues in Africa's current economic crisis, the need for greater self-reliance as well as the necessity to democratise the recovery and development process," the United Nations declared.

The conference, convened under the theme Popular Participation in Development, is a joint project by UN agencies, non-governmental development organisations in Africa and abroad, and African governments.

Delegates are expected to range from foreign donors to African officials and representatives of grass-roots, women's and youth organisations, as well as trade unions.

Calls to promote "people's participation" have gained ground gradually since a similar, UN-sponsored conference in Abuja, Nigeria, in 1987. A follow-up conference two years ago in the Sudanese capital Khartoum delivered the message bluntly.

"The political context for promoting healthy human development has been marred for more than two decades by instability, war, intolerance, restrictions on the freedom of individuals and groups as well as overconcentration of power," it declared.

Constraints

These constraints, said the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), undermined people's motivation and productivity, and public accountability.

"This is one important sense in which Africa needs more democratic political structures in order to facilitate development," it added.

African leaders, at their annual summit last July, approved in principle a blueprint for recovery prepared by the ECA which declared: "Development has to be engineered and sustained by the people themselves through their full and active participation."

The Arusha conference, like those in Abuja and Khartoum, was arranged to monitor implementation of a five year development programme hammered out in 1986 by African officials and the international community.

The UN programme of action for African economic recovery and development envisaged investment needs of \$128 billion, nearly two-thirds to be mobilised by African countries themselves, and cashed in a goal of self-reliance.

This goal appears to have taken on added importance as a result of the political changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

These, World Bank President Barber Conable predicted this month, would make it harder than ever for Third World countries to compete for foreign investment.

Warning

His warning followed that of French Development Minister Jacques Pelletier that African countries would remain poor and backward unless they followed Eastern Europe's lead in embracing democratic reforms.

"Africa... its peoples and its leaders must draw inspiration from the winds of change that we have seen triumph in the East," Pelletier said. Aid alone was not the key, he said. "Financial stabilisation, the fight against corruption at all levels, economic renewal, the building of states based on the rule of law: this does not depend on foreign aid."

Pope John Paul, during a visit to West Africa last month, also weighed in with a veiled reference to authoritarian African governments, saying development should take place openly and democratically.

Only days earlier Gabon's President Omar Bongo said he did not believe African countries would follow East Europe and move towards multi-party systems.

He said he did not expect African countries, many of which have one-party rule, to be surprised by changes in the way East European governments were.

Among African countries prepared to gamble, Algeria has found itself walking a tightrope between democracy and turmoil as rapid liberalisation spawned a flowering of new political parties and social unrest.

Reforms

President Chadli Benjedid is pressing on with economic reforms and unprecedented multi-party elections, radically transforming his country, which was a one-party state just five months ago.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni had promised to return the country to elected constitutional government this month. But he persuaded its interim Parliament to extend his mandate for another five years in order to finish drafting a constitution and implement key development projects delayed by civil strife.

Publicly, he remains committed to achieving popular constitutional rule and urged African countries recently to embrace democracy, saying: "Reforms to ensure democracy in Africa are important. We must have these reforms to morally qualify to criticise South Africa."

There, President F.W. de Klerk has promised to build what he called a new South Africa giving the five-to-one black majority equal political rights and equal opportunities with whites.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1495 — Sir William Stanley, King Henry VII's Lord Chamberlain, is executed in England.

1567 — Henry Darnley, consort of Mary Queen of Scots, is murdered.

1763 — France cedes Canada to England as Treaty of Paris is signed, ending French and Indian war.

1811 — Russians take Belgrade and capture Turkish army.

1817 — Britain, Prussia, Austria and Russia agree to first reduction of occupation forces in France.

1828 — Simon Bolivar, South American revolutionary, becomes ruler of Colombia.

1846 — British forces under Hugh Gough defeat Sikhs at Sobrahan, India.

1848 — Constitution in Naples is proclaimed by Ferdinand I.

1878 — By Convention of El Zanjou, ending ten years' war, Spain promises reforms in Cuba.

1939 — Japanese forces occupy Hainan Island, China.

1943 — Britain's Eighth Army reaches Tunisian border in World War II.

1961 — United States relinquishes rights to many defense bases in West Indies.

1969 — United States, Britain and France reject German restrictions on travel to West Berlin, and remind Soviets of their responsibility to ensure free access.

1974 — Iraq claims that 70 Iranians were killed or wounded in border clash between Iraqi and Iranian troops.

1988 — Dissident homeland army officers oust Boputha's-wana president Lucas Mangope.

1989 — Jetplane chartered by United Nations arrives in Kabul, Afghanistan, with wheat and dried milk to help feed needy.



Gorbachev (L) talking to party members. (Reuters wirephoto)

Political struggle seen ahead

Kremlin opts for pluralism

China no to Soviet style

MOSCOW, (Agencies): Despite the Kremlin's decision to open the gates to pluralism in the Soviet Union, months of struggle lie ahead before the contours of the country's new political landscape can emerge.

And while moderate reformers grouped around President Mikhail Gorbachev argue that the battle is largely won, radical Soviet politicians say it is still out there that the Communist Party is ready to change.

"There is a vast middle layer of party officials right across the country who are not going to give up easily and they still wield a lot of power," said Ukrainian parliamentarian deputy Yuri Sorochik on Thursday.

And Nikolai Promakhov, spokesman for a Moscow reform group, said this week's meeting of the party's Central Committee had shown that the communists had only allowed "a few steps forward" to be taken.

Reform

As Gorbachev and his aides focused on another meeting within three weeks which will discuss reform of the party rules, it seemed that all had not gone Gorbachev's way.

Official spokesmen have given only imprecise accounts about the session's key document, a draft for a new communist platform to be presented to a party congress in late June and early July.

Gorbachev, in a speech to the 249 still mainly conservative members of the committee on Monday, said he wanted to end the party's formal monopoly on power.

But after more than two days of heated debate, hardliners indicated that although they might accept a challenge to communist authority, they might not co-operate in practice.

Speakers from provincial party organisations, still a stronghold on old-style thinking, said anarchy was afoot and could take the Soviet Union to the brink of chaos.

Although the committee approved a decision to ask the Soviet parliament to "revise" a clause in the 1977 constitution assigning the party the "leading role" in society, it was not clear what form the revision would take.

Committee members and guests at the meeting said they were convinced the resolution would end the communists' privileged position but a party official suggested another aim.

Communist number two in Kazakhstan Vladimir Amurlyev said the draft platform "makes it possible to create a bloc of democratic forces embracing not only many public organisations but also other parties."

Foreign diplomats in Moscow said this could mean the party might aim for a structure which long prevailed in many Eastern European countries — a communist-controlled "democratic front."

BEIJING, (Reuters): Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin has affirmed that China will under no circumstances follow the Soviet Union down the path of radical political reform.

Jiang made his party's resolve clear at a meeting with former US congressmen on Wednesday as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was demolishing his party's system, the Chinese leader said.

"Jiang said that China is different from the Soviet Union," a US official who attended the meeting said on Thursday.

"He said that China was not influenced by political changes in the Soviet Union. He remarked that China's Communist Party didn't come to power because of the Soviet Red Army," the official added.

The Chinese party newspaper People's Daily, using the most extreme language, said the army crushed pro-democracy protests last year, warned on Thursday of chaos and civil war if the party surrendered its supreme authority.

In China, if there were no strong leadership by the Chinese Communist Party there would certainly be chaos through war, splitting of the nation's people, renewed disaster for the masses," the party warned.

"They're playing the card that if it ain't us it's anarchy," a Western

But Boris Korolyov, senior political commentator for the semi-official Novosti press agency, said the country was heading for an open political system.

Many radicals have condemned the meeting for failing to remove conservatives such as Yegor Ligachev from the Politburo or even discredited figures who no longer hold any official post.

"This would only be throwing a few bones to the people. The sacrifice of a handful of officials at this stage would not solve any problems. The key thing is to build for the future with changes in the party structure," said Korolyov.

Leonid Dobrokhotov, a Central Committee aide, said officials out of step with the new course would "fall away like dry wood" when the congress voted for a new leadership in the summer.

But radicals argue that, despite the moderates'

diplomat commented.

Another diplomat said he thought there was indeed concern that civil war could break out and that he doubted the leadership would give up exclusive power on its own.

"There are huge social pressures which could erupt if the party loosened its grip," he said.

The Daily published China's own blueprint for reform, which called for a "democratic revolution" to replace the "authoritarian" system of the Communist Party and its vast membership of 47 million people.

Most Chinese are only vaguely aware of what the eight non-communist parties are. Many are sceptical that they will be given any real authority.

Coverage

China's official media has given muted coverage to reforms in Eastern Europe, and has so far not reported on the three-day Central Committee meeting in Moscow.

Many people, especially intellectuals, are well aware of what is happening through foreign radio broadcasts.

A senior editor at the People's Daily said it did not want to comment on the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe but its policy was to report the events.

A Soviet diplomat in Beijing said there had been no immediate Chinese reaction to the Moscow events. He

said that as far as he knew the planned visit of Premier Li Peng to the Soviet Union for late April was still on.

"I see no reason why relations between the Soviet Union and China should deteriorate... since China adheres to its tenet of not interfering in another country's affairs," he said.

The two communist giants kept close ties after the 1949 Chinese revolution but fell out over ideological and foreign policy issues in the early 1960s, a rift that was finally healed only last May with Gorbachev's visit to Beijing.

Some East European diplomats in Beijing see the two countries on the brink of another ideological rift.

For the Chinese leadership to give up power would call for circumstances completely different from those at work in Eastern Europe, a Western diplomat commented.

"It'll take events purely Chinese such as deaths of key leaders to make things happen," he said. "Whatever happens in another country doesn't necessarily set things off in China."

"The system we practise of Communist Party leadership with multi-party co-operation is basically different from the multi-party and two-party systems of other countries," the People's Daily editorial said.

"It is also different from the one-party system practised by some socialist countries," it added.

belief that pressure from the grass-roots party organisations would ensure the return of reformist delegates to the congress, the apparatus could still upset the scenario.

Yury Afanasyev, a historian and communist who has criticised what he sees as Gorbachev's compromise with the conservatives, said he saw no alternative now to a split in the party.

Even Central Committee officials say the strongest likely competitor to the communists will emerge from within the party itself — perhaps with the radical wing creating a left social democratic organisation.

At least one speaker at the session said the draft platform did not take enough account of social democratic views and Soviet historian Boris Orlov told Moscow Radio's Interfax agency that social democracy was already a growing force.

Letters to the editor

Self-help scheme

SIR: This is in reference to a letter published in your newspaper dated Feb 5, 1990.

Two letters of criticism have been published in your newspaper regarding a proposal of PPC Kuwait president. Being a member of this club I would like to clarify the following:

1. Although Noor has been out of the country for a long time we feel proud that he has not forgotten his country or the nation and he has always tried to serve the nation in one way or the other.

2. He gave his proposal at a meeting of representatives of different organisations but not at a general meeting, as all our (Pakistani) organisations claim to be of welfare ones. His proposal was just a way to fulfil that purpose.

3. The proposal was to start a self-help programme and not an appeal to other nationals to help the poor Pakistanis and I believe the fact that all the nations regardless of developed, underdeveloped or under-level poverty do have welfare programme both organised by the government or privately.

4. As regards the permission, he gave his proposal at a meeting of different organisations. He put forward his opinion that all of us can work together to serve the nation. It was to get the permission and a call as well, to join in the best interest of the nation.

5. Clarification to the questions like: Is it an international campaign? Who will control it? How and to whom will the funds go? What is the target? and many other such questions, I do not think that letters to the editor column is a proper place to decide such matters. Therefore, please come forward and join us to play an effective role to decide such matters.

6. Who is the poor or the needy or the deserving, surely Nawaz Sharif or Buttou or Haroon families are not. When you start to do something there are many ways to know the poor and needy, even we can make some criteria.

7. My brother, we respect this criticism because difference of opinion is the basic root of the democracy, which we want to make strong, but please do at least little more than personal criticism.

8. PPC president gave a proposal for something good but you just criticised him. Let him decide who wants the scheme publicly. At the end of the day would request the PPC president to establish a public welfare section within the People's Club at the earliest which should be open to all Pakistani nationals, regardless of their political alignment to contribute or serve and its accounts should be auditable anytime.

Asif Ali Khan
member PPC Club

Empty slogan

SIR: This is in reference to a news item that appeared in your daily's columns titled "Pakistanis urged to help poor back home" (AT Jan 30).

It is outstripping to bear such a slogan from the president of Pakistan People's Club, who all, that is how club's mother, Pakistan People's Party, manipulates the poverty-stricken people of the beleaguered country — Pakistan.

But, it is shameful on the part of Noor to exploit the Pakistani community here in Kuwait in the name of those people of our nation who are (mostly) deliberately deprived of economic opportunities. What a cheap tactics to acquire publicity.

One wonders as to what the motivation behind this rhetorical appeal is. Is it a fund-raising directive from "back home" for another so-called People's Programme, or a mere catchphrase so typical of the dream merchants of Pakistan People's Party?

Is Noor ready to dissolve his Pakistan People's Club, the only major political group in Kuwait, to support his rhetoric about Pakistanis settling their political differences?

In the end, I strongly urge the embassy of Pakistan to clarify its position on the above mentioned subject, and relinquish the bi-partisan political role it has been playing for a year or so. Is it too much to only expect public service from the public servants of our country?

M. Shah
Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Stalemate has no end in sight

N'DJAMENA, Chad, (AP): Six months after Chad and Libya agreed to settle their long dispute over the Aouzou strip, a stalemate continues over the reputedly uranium-rich sliver of land separating the two countries.

In the Aug 31 accord signed in Algiers, Chad and Libya agreed to end 16 years of hostility and reach a political settlement over the sovereignty of the Aouzou within one year.

The strip, part of Chad at the time of independence from France 30 years ago, was annexed by Libya in 1973.

The French office of geological and mining research reportedly detected uranium deposits in the Aouzou in 1977, but they were never exploited.

Sincerity

After three wars between Chad and Libya, officials in N'djamena express doubts over Libya's sincerity in signing the accord, and diplomats say it is difficult to envisage a solution to the deadlock.

A weekend visit to N'djamena by Algeria's foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, appears to be an indication Algeria is trying to revive the process of reconciliation, which Algiers has been nursing along for more than a year under the auspices of the Organization for African Unity.

"The Chadians are beginning to get a little impatient with these visits and feel more pressure is being put on them than on the Libyans to reach a settlement," said a Western diplomat, speaking privately.

Palestinian Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat came to Chad last month to preach reconciliation, as have several African officials.

فكرنا اننا لنفعل

Call for democratic reforms in Syria

KUWAIT, Feb 9. (AP): Khalid Bekdash, the secretary-general of the Syrian Communist Party, said in an interview published today that President Hafez Assad could face difficulties if he does not implement democratic reforms and end the power monopoly of the Baath Party.

"We want to see the political regime reformed out of concern for it rather than enmity towards it. We feel concern over the unforeseen developments. We don't want reactionary forces to ride the wave of frustration," said Bekdash in an interview with a Kuwaiti daily.

The 90-year-old, interviewed in Damascus, was responding to a question about

the effect of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's political reforms on Syria. Syria is a close ally of Moscow.

He spoke bitterly about the deteriorating economic situation in Syria.

"There are hundreds of thousands of people on the verge of starvation. We told this to President Assad ... but President Assad said there is poverty but not starvation."

Bekdash also called for ending arbitrary arrests.

"They arrested a member of our party after accusing him of praising the head of an Arab state. He is still in jail."

Bekdash said he wondered how Syria

could restore ties with Egypt, despite its peace treaty with Israel, while resisting reconciliation with Iraq.

Syria and Iraq are ruled by rival wings of the Arab Socialist Baath Party in the worst rift in Arab ranks.

"The differences between the two ruling parties should not prevent understanding between the two states ... as without real Arab solidarity, it will be difficult to confront Israel and imperialism," said Bekdash.

"We extended our hands to Morocco and Egypt who have relations with Israel. Why don't we extend our hands to Iraq, our historical neighbour?" he asked. Syria

restored diplomatic ties with Cairo in late 1989 after a 10-year hiatus in retaliation for its peace treaty with Israel. Morocco has contacts with Israel figures and has been the most outspoken Arab capital after Cairo in recognising the existence of the Jewish state.

The Baath Party is the dominating political force in Syria though other political groupings as Bekdash's party are members of a so-called national front.

"We consider ourselves allies of the (Syrian) regime in its national policies of confronting Israel and imperialism but we are at odds concerning the domestic policies."

After Euphrates cut-off Farmers steal water

AL-RUMANA, Iraq, Feb 9. (AP): An Iraqi farmer got out of bed one night recently, sneaked over to this village's main irrigation canal from the Euphrates river and dug a hole in the earthen bank to divert water into his parched fields.

He knew it was illegal and that he risked the wrath of his fellow villagers for stealing rationed communal water for his crops.

"It's dangerous and could cost me my life if the other farmers catch me ... but I don't do it, I could lose all my winter crops," the farmer said in an interview.

He eked out a living for his wife and two children growing potatoes, barley and vegetables on two acres (about 8,100 square metres) of desert land.

His desperation underlines the crisis facing thousands of farmers and shepherds along Iraq's Euphrates basin since Turkey cut off most of the Euphrates flow Jan 13 to fill up the reservoir of the huge Ataturk Dam in southeastern Anatolia province.

The 1,460 (2,300-kilometre) Euphrates originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey and runs through Syria and Iraq before it flows into the Gulf.

It is the lifeline for 5.5 million Iraqis, about one-third of the population. Hydroelectric dams use it to generate about half Iraq's electricity.

Despite recent rainfall, the Turkish action has reduced the Euphrates' flow by three-quarters. Iraqi authorities, warning of a possible agricultural catastrophe, have ordered districts along the river to share the flow that's left.

The farmers of Rumana near the Syrian border, 300 miles (500 kilometres) west of Baghdad, are allowed to take water from the river for a few hours two days a week.

But the 60 farmers around Rumana said it is not enough to irrigate their fields and keep the desert at bay.

Some openly take water from the river, pumping it into battered tanker trucks. They argue that they're stealing from the government, not their fellow farmers.

But in their arid region, water has always been scarce and has triggered friction, and sometimes violent feuds, between tribes and families.

The Baghdad government, fearing that the diversion of the Euphrates will exacerbate the situation, imposed rationing and sent teams of agriculture officials to the affected areas to advise farmers on how to cope with the crisis.

The Turkish diversion of the Euphrates is scheduled to end Feb 13, once the reservoir at the Ataturk Dam, centrepiece of a major irrigation project in impoverished Anatolia, is filled.

But the Iraqis and Syrians, who are probably more dependent on the Euphrates than their western neighbours, fear that when the ambitious Anatolia irrigation and hydroelectric programme is completed, the Turks will be diverting so much water that the downstream states will be permanently affected.

Baghdad has warned that the Euphrates cut-off will have grave consequences and could lead to an agricultural disaster in as many as seven Iraqi provinces.

"When all the 21 dams of the Anatolia development project are completed in 2005, the entire Euphrates river could be diverted, leaving the downstream region an arid plain," Adel Khafaji, head of reclamation development at Iraq's agriculture and water reservation centre told the Associated Press.

Baghdad has been pouring billions of dollars since the early 1950s into agriculture seeking to achieve self-sufficiency, an investment the government now fears is in jeopardy.

This year, despite a foreign debt of \$60-70 billion, it has allocated more than 900 million dinars (about \$2.8 billion) for agricultural projects to increase food production.

The government also plans to cut down its food import bill, currently as much as \$4.5 billion.

Iraq has a population of more than 17.5 million and one of the highest birthrates in the Middle East. Agriculture employs about 32 per cent of the population, compared with only three per cent in the oil sector, the main source of revenue.

The government has been driving to reclaim desert land and build dams to control water and increase production to restore Iraq's ancient position as the granary of the Middle East.

Efforts to turn desert wastes into productive farmland will be ruined if the Euphrates flow is reduced permanently.

Baghdad does not want to sour its "workable relations" with Ankara and hopes to avoid a conflict over the Euphrates despite Turkey's refusal of Iraq's request to halve the cut-off period and work out a settlement.

But Baghdad's fears about the long-term impact of the Anatolia project has clearly caused anger and alarm that could yet sour relations.

Khafaji said Iraq cannot depend on its other main source of water, the Tigris river, to cover the loss of the Euphrates because the Tigris, which also originates in Turkey, is needed to irrigate the arable land along its course.

He said that the quality of the Tigris water diminishes as it flows south to eventually merge with the Euphrates at Al Qurna, reputed site of the Garden of Eden, because of increasing salinity and evaporation.

MIDEAST BRIEFS



Ties resume

Czechoslovakia's new reformist government formally resumed full diplomatic relations with Israel on Friday, opening a new era of friendship after a 23-year rift.

Foreign Ministers Moshe Arens of Israel and Jiri Dienstbier of Czechoslovakia signed the accord at a ceremony in Prague's Carrin Palace witnessed by journalists.

Czechoslovakia follows Hungary in reversing a Soviet-led decision to break with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war. Hungary resumed ties last September.

Pietrzenich Arens (left) talking to Czech deputy foreign minister Václav Bartošek in Prague. (Reuters wirephoto)

League HQ

DOHA, Feb 9. (AP): Egyptian Foreign Minister Abdel Meguid said in an interview published today that Cairo has mustered sufficient support to return the headquarters of the 22-member Arab League to Cairo.

In an interview distributed by the Qatar News Agency he said Tunis, Tunisia had been designated a "temporary headquarters" by Arab leaders when the League secretariat moved there in 1979.

He said the League secretariat moved there in 1979.

ALGIERS, Feb 9. (Reuters): The city of Algiers and surrounding areas were shaken by an earth tremor today but no damage was reported, the official news agency APS said.

The tremor registered 4.8 on the open-ended Richter scale - powerful enough to cause damage in populated areas. It was felt in Algiers, Blida and Tipaza at 0931 GMT, the agency said.

Iran rejects

NICOSIA, Feb 9. (AP): Iran rejected US allegations that a terrorist attack was planned in Europe to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

Ira said the Islamic republic's mission at the United Nations issued a statement late yesterday saying the charge was "baseless" and an attempt to discredit Iran.

Prisoners pardoned

NICOSIA, Feb 9. (AP): Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei granted amnesty to 178 prisoners to mark the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, the official news agency reported today.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, said the prisoners came from 22 cities throughout Iran.

Rebels advance

ISLAMABAD, Feb 9. (Reuters): The Soviet-backed Afghan authorities said today rebels had made advances on the eastern garrison town of Khost taking some military posts and suburbs.

"The armed forces retaliated and cleared 72 extremists from the battle scenes," the official Bakhtar news agency said.

600 released

CAIRO, Feb 9. (UPI): Interior Minister Abdel Halim Moussa said today he had ordered the release of 600 prisoners held on criminal charges since taking over as Egypt's top policeman on Jan 12.

Moussa also said that a total of 751 political prisoners, including 694 Muslim fundamentalists, were still being detained, but gave no further details.

France expands TV

AMMAN, Feb 9. (AP): A French television service partly owned by the French government began sending four hours a day of programmes to Jordan's state-run television company via satellite yesterday.

Fouad Benkhalla, president of Canal-France-International, told news conference that he hopes the additional choice of programming will encourage Jordan television to expand its current 90 minute daily French-language broadcast, although that is not assured.

Hussein in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Feb 9. (AP): King Hussein of Jordan yesterday held talks with President Saddam Hussein that were likely to have included the topic of the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel.

Sharon: Israel will talk to deportees

PLO flexible on delegation

TEL AVIV, Feb 9. (Agencies): Hawkish Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday Israel's government had agreed to let deported Palestinians participate in proposed talks in Cairo.

Sharon's remarks came four days before his Likud Party meets for a critical debate on terms for a dialogue with Palestinians. The issue of deportees is likely to be a main point of discussion within the party.

"Jerusalem, to my shame as a Jew and a member of the government has apparently already given its consent to deportees," Sharon told the Press Club in Tel Aviv.

Sharon has challenged Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's leadership of the party, forming a strong block of opposition known as the "constraints" camp.

Sharon and his allies are expected to demand new limits on any negotiations with Palestinians. A fragile Likud-Labour coalition government could collapse if Shamir accepts conditions that Labour believes would prevent talks.

Syria yesterday urged Arab states to form a joint army to confront Israel which it said posed a great threat to the Arab world.

The official English-language Syria Times said Israeli leaders were determined to achieve a "greater Israel and occupy more Arab lands."

"The Israelis aim now at evacuating the Arab lands from their indigenous population with the aim of building settlements to absorb the influx of immigrants," the paper said.

"This is part and parcel of the Israeli schemes to continue the policy of aggression and expansion," the paper added.

Israel fights stones with stones

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb 9. (Reuters): The Israeli army has started fighting stones with stones in its battle to quell the 26-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Military sources said yesterday the army had developed a prototype cannon capable of hurling 600 egg-sized stones per minute and was using it in the Ramallah area of the West Bank.

Israel radio said the experimental jeep-mounted cannon could fire stones up to 75 metres.

Palestinian stone-throwing accounts for nearly 90 per cent of all violence in the popular revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, military sources say.

But the Palestinians only use arm power.

The security forces have used gravel-throwers for riot control in addition to tear-gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition.

'Israel responsible'

JEDDAH, Feb 9. (Agencies): Hamid Al Gabid, secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, yesterday held Israel responsible for the anti-Israeli violence by Arabs including the attack on an Israeli tourist bus in Egypt.

Al Gabid told a news conference on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the OIC that the violence was inevitable because Israel was denying the Palestinians their rights.

"This denial will provoke the Palestinians to commit irrational acts," he said.

Replying to a question on the bus attack, Gabid said "the OIC condemns aggressions against unarmed civilians but is certain that Israel is responsible for any act of violence in the region by its continued refusal of the Palestinians' rights."

The Organisation has welcomed superpower détente saying it paved the way for a new era in international relations that lessened threats of war.

The member states welcomed with increased appreciation the positive changes in the international arena, especially in ties between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Other PLO leaders, including Salah Khalaf of Arafat's Fatah movement and Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have denied the PLO would accept an announcement by Egypt.

Abu Sharif, who has often acted as advocate of Arafat's more conciliatory positions, declined to deny the reports.

Clashes between Israeli troops and Arab stone-throwers erupted for a third day in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday, prompting the PLO to seek international help to stop soldiers from opening fire.

Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan was freed from prison today saying he was more determined than ever to talk to Arab leaders and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Big Two oppose Jewish settlement

MOSCOW, Feb 9. (Agencies): The Soviet Union and the United States yesterday have expressed opposition to plans by the Israeli government to settle Jewish immigrants in occupied Arab lands.

Speaking in a press briefing on the outcome of the first day of talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his US counterpart James Baker, the Soviet official spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said "neither the Soviet Union, nor the United States supports Israel's intentions of rehabilitating immigrants in the occupied Arab lands."

Gerasimov indicated that the issue of Jewish immigration was discussed by Shevardnadze and Baker after it had been raised by a Soviet expert in meeting of working groups entrusted with regional conflicts.

He defended his country's position regarding opening doors for Jews to emigrate "under the provisions of the international human rights charter to any destination."

But he asserted that the settlement of immigrants in the occupied Arab lands, as planned by Israel, is another thing and said "such a move represents flagrant violation of Article 9 of the 1949 Geneva convention."

Gerasimov said Baker had informed Shevardnadze of the US intention of increasing the number of immigrants who will be allowed to come to the country this year by 60,000 to 70,000 including 50,000 Jews.

US ambassador Robert Pelletreau held talks on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel with high-ranking officials of the PLO and the Arab League, sources in the Tunisian capital reported today.

Pelletreau met with Palestinian Liberation Organisation official Hakim Balawi and with Arab League President Cheddi Kibbi as both organisations stepped up the campaign to choke the emigration.

In Dubai, the government-owned Al Bayan daily urged Egypt and Jordan to deploy troops in Jordan to defend it against Israeli threats.

"Tel Aviv wants to expel Palestinians to Jordan which Israel has claimed as alternative homeland for the Palestinian people," said Al Bayan in a front-page editorial.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) called yesterday for urgent United Nations action on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"OIC believes that the settlement of Soviet Jews in Palestinian and Arab territories under Israeli occupation would impede the prospects for the political settlement of the Middle East question," said Hamid Algabid, secretary-general of the 46-member group.

The Soviet ambassador to Damascus suggested that Arab nations take "active steps" against the United States to try to prevent Soviet Jews from settling in the Israeli-occupied areas, the official Syrian Arab news agency reported today.

Ambassador Alexander Zotov did not refer to the United States by name in the statement he made late Thursday to the agency.

Israel is reported to have reached an agreement with Hungary to have Soviet Jews transit by Budapest before heading to their final destination, Tel Aviv.

The weekly magazine 'L'Express' said in its latest edition, released today, that the Israelis had to take that decision to face flights problems it was facing as a result of the growing number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel, more than 5,000 for January alone.

President George Bush urged the Soviet Union to normalise ties with Israel and appealed for direct flights for Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate there.

After a speech to civic leaders in San Francisco, he was asked about the chances for a joint US-Soviet effort to break the Middle East deadlock.

"Better, far better," he said of that possibility.

Granny wins right to keep both legs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 9. (Reuters): An Israeli great-grandmother whose life is threatened by a fast-decaying leg wound a court battle yesterday to enter "heaven" on her own two feet.

A judge ruled that 84-year-old Ruth Trabelsi was competent to decide for herself whether to undergo an amputation that doctors said would prolong her life.

The case, which has gripped the Israeli public, put civil rights activists at odds with rabbis who said Jewish law holds that all must be done to keep a person alive.

After the hearing, a fist-fight erupted at Trabelsi's bedside among family members divided over her fate, hospital staff said. Surgeons say she will die soon unless the gangrenous leg is severed.

Trabelsi, an ultra-religious Jew of Tunisian extraction with more than 100 descendants, said she wanted to go to heaven with her body intact.

"I am going to heaven on my own two feet," she told the judge hearing her case at the hospital this week.

Doctors decided 10 days ago to operate on the leg after Trabelsi entered hospital to have a blood clot removed. The state took the case to court out of concern for her life.

An overnight visit by a Tunisian-born rabbi led Trabelsi to temporarily agree to the operation, but she changed her mind when she awoke yesterday.

The magistrate court ruled that Trabelsi could not be forced by the state to undergo the operation after a psychiatrist and geriatrics expert testified she was capable of assessing the consequences of her decision.

It was not clear whether anyone would challenge the ruling.

"The country was caught up in an extraordinary drama," said Yair Tshaban, a Parliament member of the leftist Mapam Party who hailed the court decision.

New US plan to defend Gulf oil

MANAMA, Feb 9. (UPI): US Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs John Kelly arrived in the island state of Bahrain yesterday from Qatar, on the fifth leg of his seven-nation Gulf tour, officials said.

The tour comes as the United States draws up new plans to defend vital oil routes through the Gulf, at a time of a reduced Soviet threat and continuing calm on the Iran-Iraq war front, according to reports published in the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Kelly began his tour with a visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday, then flew to the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and then Bahrain.

Gulf Arab reaction to the apparent switch in US defence policy was not immediately clear. But one Gulf Arab government official said Washington should now concentrate on helping Gulf states defend themselves by providing them with the military hardware to do so.

In the past, the US Congress has been reluctant to approve sales of sophisticated military equipment to Gulf Arab states for fear the weapons might end up being used against Israel, even though Western-oriented Gulf Arabs have insisted the arms would be used to prevent the Gulf war spilling over into their oil-rich states.

Iran and Iraq signed a UN-brokered ceasefire after their eight-year-long war in Aug 1988.

The two US newspapers, quoting a classified Defence Department confidential document signed by US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney, said US military leaders had been told to scrap plans for defending Iran in the event of a Soviet drive towards Gulf oil fields.

The new guidelines said the US military focus in the Gulf should be securing oil supplies by defending the Arabian peninsula against regional threats that might be assisted by Moscow, the document said.

It said the goal of defending Iran in the event of a Soviet attack was the focus of intense US military planning after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

The guidelines contained in the document quote a senior US Defence Department official as saying Iran's anti-American feeling made it unrealistic to assume US troops could deploy there in the event of a Soviet attack.

US military planners have been told to "focus additional attention on the defence of the Arabian peninsula" and prepare for the possible spread of nuclear weapons to Third World countries, a US defence official said.

The instructions are in the latest defence planning guidance, a biennial classified policy document issued by the secretary of defence to help the military services make plans as they draw up their budgets for 1992-97.

A senior Defence Department official, who briefed a group of reporters on the Jan 26 document on the condition he not be identified, said the classified paper offers a significantly relaxed assessment of the possible Soviet and Warsaw Pact threat to Western Europe.



Victim of savage fighting
Medics aid a wounded Christian man to the waiting ambulance as he arrives at La Bourge airport outside Paris with 15 other injured civilians from Beirut. Savage fighting in Beirut between rival Christian forces has resulted in 340 deaths with 1,300 wounded in recent days. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cairo arrests one of two bus attackers

CAIRO, Feb 9. (Agencies): Police have arrested one of the two masked men who attacked a tour bus with machine guns and hand grenades and killed nine Israelis, the state-owned newspaper Al Akhbar said in today's edition.

The newspaper did not identify the arrested man by name or nationality but said that a press conference would be held "in a few days" to announce the findings of the police.

"Al Akhbar has learned that the Interior Ministry's security apparatus has arrested the culprit who participated with his partner in the attack on the Israeli tourists' bus," the newspaper said in its main front page story without any attribution.

On Thursday, Al Akhbar also said one of the terrorists had been arrested. But it was unclear if referred to one of the gunmen or the Palestinian driver of the ambush car, who has been detained and questioned about a possible connection with the attack.

Police have said the attack was planned outside of Egypt and a Palestinian connection is being investigated.

Investigators have viewed videotape shot during the ambush, Al Akhbar reported yesterday. The tape's owner said it showed the faces of the attackers.

An spokesman for the Interior Ministry, which is in the charge

of the investigation, has refused any comment on the newspaper's reports.

Leading Al Akhbar newspaper, in its early Friday edition, editorially attacked Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon for saying Egypt was responsible for the fatal attack on the bus.

"Sharon is the first to know that he is at the head of those who are responsible for the violence and extremism that are spread in the region..."

"He is the first to realise that the seed of violence was sown by him and those Hawks and extremists like him," the editorial said.

The attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt has strained Cairo's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation at a critical point in Middle East peace efforts.

The chill, disclosed by sources close to the government, could endanger efforts by the United States to initiate Israeli-Palestinian peace talks because Egypt is acting as surrogate for the PLO in the process.

The sources said Egyptian-PLO relations have deteriorated so far that the estimated 35,000-40,000 Palestinians in Egypt have come under government scrutiny. They said breaches of travel and residence rules have been uncovered in the checks that followed strong hints of a Palestinian connection in the bus incident.

Soviet general dies in Ethiopia copter crash

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 9. (Reuters): The head of the Soviet military mission to Ethiopia, an Ethiopian general and 15 others were killed when their helicopter smashed into a cliff, Ethiopian state radio said yesterday.

It said Major-General Alexander Simonov and a Soviet translator were among those killed in the crash on Wednesday in the eastern Hararghe province.

Major-general Berhanu Jembere, commander of the first revolutionary army in eastern Ethiopia, also died. The identities of the other victims were not immediately clear.

Diplomats in East Africa said the crash may have been an accident, but the death of two top officials such as Simonov and Berhanu was bound to raise questions about possible sabotage.

Berhanu was a close associate of President Mengistu Haile Mariam. The two fought together in the 1974 revolution which overthrew emperor Haile Selassie.

He was head of the government's relief and rehabilitation commission until last November when he returned to military service after Mengistu retired several prominent officials suspected of sympathising with a coup attempt against him in May.

Wednesday's helicopter crash, however, took place in a province virtually unaffected by rebel activity.

Jordan armed forces face lower spending

AMMAN, Feb 9. (Reuters): Jordan's armed forces, once pampered but now pinching pennies, are facing calls in Parliament for greater public scrutiny of their dwindling finances.

Most deputies voiced support for the armed forces in a parliamentary budget debate last month, but several, worried by the large share of military loans in Jordan's \$8 billion foreign debt, urged public scrutiny of military finances.

"There is no need for secrecy in issues related to the spending of the armed forces," said deputy Jamal Sarayneh.

Military analysts say three years of cost cutting have damaged the effectiveness of the armed forces, already puny compared to those of neighbours like Israel, Syria or Iraq.

High inflation and a plunge in the dinar's exchange value since 1988 have slashed real spending on defence.

The 1990 budget allocates 255 million dinars (\$385 million) for current military spending, or nearly 30 per cent of all current spending.

"The armed forces are now in a mess, especially the airforce," an analyst said. "They are short of spare parts and fuel and have cut down on maintenance and training."

Even though several airforce pilots have been laid off or seconded overseas, the number of flying hours for those left is well below levels Nato regards as minimum, analysts said.

Some aircraft have been grounded for lack of spare parts and some cannibalised to keep other planes in the air.

The 74,000-strong army is off better shape but many of its vehicles are off the road. To save fuel, it has reduced the daily running of tank engines needed to keep them battle-ready.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Failed bank-CIA link: Federal authorities backed away from investigating an airline owner accused of contributing to the financial failure of a Kansas City bank because he had ties to the CIA, a newspaper reported.

Farida Azima, a native Iranian and owner of Global International Airways, was the fourth-largest shareholder in Indian Springs State Bank of Kansas City, Kansas, which failed in 1984, the Houston Post reported on Thursday. (AP)

Medicine may lower IQ: A study released on Thursday warned doctors against giving phenobarbital to babies who suffer convulsions during high fevers because the medicine, taken by tens of thousands of children, doesn't prevent seizures and may lower IQ.

There might be an unusual child for whom this (treatment) would still be of benefit, said Dr. Deborah G. Hirtz. "It should not be used in most cases."

Phenobarbital is the drug of choice given to infants with so-called febrile seizures.

An estimated 130,000 babies a year in the United States alone suffer at least one such seizure and up to 40,000 are given the drug to prevent the convulsions from recurring, said Dr. Jonas H. Elkensberg. (AP)

Indians to sell Onassis land: Most of the Wampanoag Indians involved in a 10-year battle with Jacqueline Onassis over beachfront property on Martha's Vineyard agreed to sell her the land in return for money and another tract, officials said.

According to Wampanoag legend, chief Moshup and his wife, Squant, are buried in the disputed land, a 264-foot (80-metre) stretch of property in the Gay Head section of Massachusetts.

Paul Sulla, a Boston attorney representing some of the Indians, said an agreement had been reached among 95 per cent of the parties involved. (AP)

Supercollider project: White House science adviser D. Allan Bromley said on Wednesday that construction work on the supercolliding super collider should be delayed until industry proves it can manufacture the specialized magnets required by the massive atom smasher.

Bromley, director of the Office of Science and Technology policy in the White House, told members of the House of Representatives committee on science, space and technology that part of the \$1.8-billion requested for the supercollider in fiscal 1991 will be spent proving that such magnets can be built. (AP)

US educational studies: Question: If you call a person who speaks two languages bilingual, what do you call a person who speaks one language?

An American, says congressman George Sangmeister.

He is introducing legislation on Thursday that authorizes \$58 million in federal funds over five years and matching grants to states for instruction in foreign studies, language and geography.

"We live in an increasingly global society. We can no longer afford a generation of children uneducated and uninterested in the world outside the United States," said Sangmeister.

Experts estimate 30 million Americans are functionally illiterate and as many as 2 million students leave school with deficient basic skills each year. (AP)

Europe

Inventors win British award: Belfast University team has won a British Inventors' competition for developing a computer technique using sound waves to diagnose torn knee cartilages.

Northern Ireland hospitals are famed for their intricate blood vessel repair work on the victims of "knockcapping" — the traditional punishment meted out by paramilitary forces who shoot their victims in the knees.

But the eight-man team at Queen's University won their £15,000 (£24,000) prize for a knee screening breakthrough that could benefit leading sportsmen. (Reuters)

Cancer risk after vasectomy: Thousands of British men who have had a vasectomy could face a greater risk of cancer, according to a warning.

Men who have undergone the operation are more likely to be treated for a tumour in a testicle than those who have not.

On average the cancer was found two years after the vasectomy, but a tumour takes longer to develop, the doctors said in the British medical journal. (Kuna)

Britain fiftieth in Europe: Britain is one of the fiftieth countries in Europe, a senior opposition politician has warned.

The Labour Party's foreign affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman, was quoted by the British media as saying the UK is "byword for dirt and disaster" with muddy streets and transport systems. (Kuna)

Royal Shakespeare Co.: Royal Shakespeare Company announced on Thursday it will close its two London theatres for four months, citing the need for what Falstaff called a "remedy against this consumption of the purse."

The theatre's staff of nearly 70 in London will draw half pay while performances are suspended, beginning in November, artistic director Terry Hands said. (AP)

Wedding organiser dies: Lord MacLean, the former Lord Chamberlain or chief official of Queen Elizabeth II's household who organised the 1981 wedding of her eldest son Prince Charles and the then Lady Diana Spencer, has died, his family announced on Friday.

MacLean, who was head of an ancient Scottish clan, was 73. He died on Thursday at Hampton Court Palace, a former royal residence on the River Thames 11 miles (17 kms) southwest of central London, where he had been chief steward since 1985. No cause of death was stated. (AP)

Nepal seizes newspapers in crackdown against democracy drive

KATHMANDU, Feb 9. (Agencies): Nepali authorities have seized editions of two weekly newspapers that have given extensive coverage to a campaign for multi-party democracy, journalists said today.

They said officials raided the offices of Sapthami Bimarsah and Sapthami Nepali Awaj last night and seized all copies of the latest editions.

Outlawed political parties have set February 18 as the launch date for a non-violent movement to restore open political activity in the Himalayan country.

Nepal's King banned political parties in 1960



Blowing top

A South African traffic policeman battles against hurricane force winds that hit downtown Cape Town. The wind caused havoc, ripping off roofs and blowing over pedestrians. (Reuters wirephoto)



Hurricane doesn't stop

A Londoner holds on to his hat as he passes a local newspaper advertisement warning of 90-MPH winds that are expected over parts of Britain. A similar storm last Jan 25 caused the death of more than 40 people. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boys-only rule: Britain's boy scout movement, the world's first, said on Thursday it was lifting an 83-year-old ban and opening all its ranks to girls.

The Scout Association said local troops should "be prepared" to admit girls aged six to 15, acknowledging it was time to come into line with mixed groups in more than 50 other countries.

But the decision drew fire from the girl guides, a separate movement established by the Scout founder Robert Baden-Powell, who feared their younger members in the brownies and rainbows would defect to the scouts' junior branches, the Cubs and Beavers. (Reuters)

Offer to buy Really Useful: Andrew Lloyd Webber is offering to buy his publicly owned theatre production company, Really Useful Group Plc, so he can switch his attention from theatre to films.

Lloyd Webber on Wednesday offered 233 pence (£3.94) a share for the 47.5 per cent of the company he doesn't already own. At that price the entire company is worth £77.4 million (£131 million). (AP)



Asia

Palau pact headed for defeat: A proposed deal giving the United States defence rights in the Western Pacific islands of Palau appeared headed for rejection for the seventh time in seven years, referendum results showed on Thursday.

Poll officials said "yes" votes favouring the "compact of free association" with the United States were slightly ahead of "no" votes but they doubted whether the proposal would get the required 75 per cent majority needed for ratification. (Reuters)

On trail of arsonists: South Korean police are hot on the trail of the Phantom gang burners of Seoul.

A police spokesman said on Thursday that the wooden gates of 60 houses in residential areas of the capital had been set on fire before dawn over the past 12 days.

"No casualties or serious damage has been reported," he said.

He said a special police team has been set up to capture the gate-burners. (Reuters)

Candidate in porno movie: An unsuccessful candidate for parliament charged with appearing in pornographic movies told a court yesterday she was deceived by businessmen.

"I was a victim," said Hsu Hsiao-Dan, 31, who gained nationwide notoriety by stripping in public during the campaign.

Miss Hsu said she was not aware that obscene scenes were added to the movies she acted in four years ago.

and open political activity is illegal.

On Thursday, Home Affairs Minister Nirajan Thapa denounced "anti-national elements" and said the government would not allow opponents to Nepal's partyless political system to create disturbances.

Thapa told a meeting of the Nepal youth organisation the government was taking steps against "evil designs and illegal underground organisations" operating in the name of democracy.

The banned Nepali Congress Party, which is spearheading the multi-party movement backed by the left front alliance of outlawed

"As an artist, I appeared nude in several movies, but I did not shoot those indecent scenes," she said after three X-rated videos in which she appeared nude were shown in the court.

Judge Wen Yao-Nen asked if she did not realise the nude scenes shot in bed were meant for pornographic movies.

"Must those scenes be so long?" Wen said.

Miss Hsu, who was a Labour Party candidate in parliamentary elections in December, said she was told to do more nude scenes for editing into better movies. (AP)

Japan prizes: An American scientist known as the "father of artificial intelligence" and three geologists who developed the theory that the earth's crust is composed of rigid plates have won the 1990 Japan prizes, the prize committee announced on Thursday.

Professor Marvin Les Minsky of Massachusetts Institute of Technology will receive one of the two prizes, each worth 50 million yen (\$345,000), for developing and popularising the concept of artificial intelligence in computers, the Science and Technology Foundation of Japan said.

The other prize will be shared by Professors William Jason Morgan of Princeton University and Xavier Le Pichon of France's Ecole Normale Supérieure for their work in formulating the theory of tectonic plates, the foundation said. (AP)

Dos Santos urges ceasefire: Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has claimed government troops captured the strategic base of Mavinga from US-backed rebels and urged their leader to accept a cease-fire terms to end Angola's 15-year civil war.

Speaking on Tuesday night at a meeting of Angolan farmers, Dos Santos offered rebel leader Jonas Savimbi "house treatment" if he accepted a cease-fire based on a government amnesty offer leading to the rebels' integration into Angola's military, economic and social systems.

Dos Santos said candidates independent of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, or MPLA, would be allowed to stand in elections held after the war ends. (AP)

Cholera spreads in Zambia: The Zambian government declared the capital and areas up to 50 kms (30 miles) away at risk from cholera on Thursday, an official said.

Up to 36 people were feared dead in the outbreak of the infectious disease.

Health Ministry officials said on Thursday they were checking reports from clinics of nine more deaths. Unofficial sources previously reported 27 deaths.

Health Minister Mavis Mvumundu declared all urban districts and a wide tract of neighbouring territory infected, a ministry spokesman said on condition of not being identified.

The Home Affairs Ministry, meanwhile, announced plans to reduce the number of inmates in overcrowded prison cells and to limit prison visits by relatives. (AP)

Minister offers to quit: Peru's Interior Minister has offered to resign following sharp criticism of the police breakup of a campaign march in which a leftist presidential candidate was shot in the leg.

President Alan Garcia apologised to the candidate, Henry Pease, and met with his cabinet Thursday to discuss Wednesday's incident in downtown Lima as well as Interior Minister Agustín Mantilla's offer to step down.

Mantilla, who was in charge of overseeing law enforcement, called the police action that left at least seven people wounded "without justification."

No statement was issued after the cabinet meeting on whether Garcia formally accepted Mantilla's offer, and no replacement has been named, but Mantilla said his resignation was "irrevocable."

Radio Program as reported earlier Thursday without attribution that Garcia had accepted the resignation.

Senate President Humberto Carranza, of Garcia's centre-left Aprista Party, said Thursday he supported Mantilla's decision to resign. (AP)

Ortega image lift: Nicaragua was to release more than 1,000 political prisoners on Friday in a move diplomats said was calculated to lift the Sandinista government's standing at home and abroad before February 25 elections.

Most of the prisoners, including anti-Sandinista Contra rebels and members of former dictator Anastasio Somoza's national guard, would be freed from Tipitapa prison near Managua in a ceremony presided over by President Daniel Ortega, officials said.

Diplomats and international electoral observers have been invited to the mass release which the government is portraying as a step towards peace and reconciliation after years of war against the US-backed Contras.

"When the rebels present the offensive to observers here (for the elections), the Sandinistas are concerned to remove all grounds for criticism," one Western diplomat said.

"It puts the government in a very good position politically and makes them look extremely good on the human rights front," (Reuters)

11 rebels held in Costa Rica: Eleven rebels allegedly trained in Nicaragua and Libya have been arrested, the government said Thursday in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Francisco Ruiz, spokesman for the federal police, said some of the 11 had fought in a recent guerrilla offensive against the government of El Salvador. They were arrested in various parts of Costa Rica.

"Our intelligence reports say that all these men were trained in Libya and Nicaragua in guerrilla tactics," Ruiz said.

"Various detainees participated in November with El Salvador's Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front in the offensive they launched in that country," Ruiz said.

That offensive resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 people, including government soldiers, guerrillas and civilians.

Ruiz refused to give the names of those arrested "so as not to disrupt the investigations because we hope to capture more." (AP)

communist parties, has said 350 activists have been arrested.

Law and order authorities seized editions of three other newspapers earlier this week.

The government arrested 79 people in its continued efforts to head off demonstrations called to begin on Feb 18 editors and opposition sources said.

Banned opposition parties reported the total number of arrests this week had crossed the 350 mark.

"79 arrests have been reported yesterday, communication from the districts is becoming more difficult," said Damjan Dhanagata, a

Congress suffers setback

Two prominent leaders defect to Janata

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: Less than three weeks before crucial assembly elections in several states, the Congress (I) Party suffered a setback when two of its prominent leaders, Sunil Shastri in Uttar Pradesh and N.K. Tirpude in Maharashtra, left it Thursday to join the Janata Dal led by Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

Shastri is the son of late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and a former Uttar Pradesh minister for power. He had unsuccessfully contested as the Congress candidate against V.P. Singh from the Allahabad Lok Sabha constituency in 1988. Last November, the party fielded him for the Uttar Pradesh assembly from Gorakhpur, but he lost again. His elder brother Hare Krishna Shastri is

still with the Congress and was a minister in the Rajiv government. His younger brother, Anil Shastri, was elected to the Lok Sabha last November from Varanasi as a Janata Dal nominee.

Sunil's defection to the party was announced by Janata Dal secretary-general Ajit Singh. Shastri cited "lack of inner party democracy" in the Congress as his reason for leaving. Things had not improved after the party's defeat in the Lok Sabha poll, he said.

Sunil said he decided to join the Janata Dal after seeing the "sincere efforts" being made by Singh to tackle the many problems facing the country. "I have always considered him as my political mentor," he said. Shastri is expected to campaign for the Janata Dal in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Bihar during

the elections.

In Maharashtra, the decision of former deputy chief minister Tirpude to quit the party and join Janata is seen as a major blow to the Congress. The sharp-tongued leader wields a great deal of influence in the Vidarbha region of the state and had stood by the Congress in difficult periods while many others had deserted it.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Abdur Gafoor yesterday also quit Congress complaining of a lack of "inner party democracy."

Gafoor sent in a one-line resignation letter to Rajiv and later told reporters that he had no plans to join any other party at the moment. But he will actively campaign for the National Front nominees in Bihar during the assembly poll, he said.



Mother's farewell to son

A woman in Karachi mourns her son killed during anti-government demonstrations in response to the general strike called by MQM. (Reuters wirephoto)

Karachi riot toll 67

Violence dents unity on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Feb 9. (Reuters): Violence which killed more than 60 people in Karachi has damaged rare unity forged by Pakistan's political parties in a row with India over disputed Kashmir.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto chided opposition parties for backing a general strike which sparked gunbattles between security forces and anti-government protesters in Karachi on Wednesday.

Opposition politicians blamed the government for the bloodshed, the worst since Benazir came to power 14 months ago.

A government spokesman said 67 people were killed in Wednesday's fighting, most of them by activists of the powerful Mohajir National Movement (MQM), which called the strike to protest against what it called repressive government policies.

The MQM, an ethnic group, is part of an opposition coalition which vowed on Sunday to join Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in supporting a Muslim secessionist uprising in India's Kashmir state.

Benazir, recovering after giving birth to a second child two weeks ago, said the MQM had broken a pledge to keep the peace during the strike.

"It was also unbecoming on the part of opposition parties to support unlawful activities... when the nation is in dire need of solidarity and unity," she said in a statement.

"It was unfortunate to note that members of a group who had resolved three days ago to stand by the government... on the Kashmir issue resorted to violence, took the law in their hands and killed and injured so many innocent people in Karachi."

Mitterrand to visit Pakistan and Dhaka

PARIS, Feb 9. (AP): President Francois Mitterrand will make official visits to Pakistan and Bangladesh later this month, the presidential palace announced today.

Mitterrand will be in Pakistan Feb 19-21, and Bangladesh Feb 22-24, the announcement said.

spokesman for the banned Nepali Congress Party.

Arrests have been reported from nine districts outside the Nepalese capital, he told a news conference.

Nirajan Thapa, minister of state for home affairs, confirmed the ongoing arrests but did not confirm the number and said severe action will be taken against the opposition.

The government has started to take action against anti-national forces. The government will not hesitate to take action when it finds it necessary," he said.

Opposition members walked out of Parliament in protest during a debate on Wednesday on an Indian crackdown in its state of Kashmir.

"The PPP government... is directly responsible for the deteriorating law and order situation," veteran opposition politician Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan told reporters.

Another opposition leader, Shujaat Hussain, blamed Interior Ministry paramilitary forces for most of the Karachi deaths and accused them of a "conspiracy to divide the nation over the Kashmir issue."

But Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan said MQM workers "went berserk" after finding the strike was not fully supported even in areas regarded as their strongholds.

India and Pakistan have been waging a war of words over Kashmir, arousing fears of another armed conflict on the issue.

India has accused Pakistan of inciting separatist unrest that has rocked Kashmir for months. Islamabad says the revolt is the result of New Delhi's refusal to let Kashmiris determine their future.

India regards all Kashmir as an integral part of India. Pakistan wants Kashmir, most of whom are Muslim, to decide in a plebiscite whether to join Muslim Pakistan or Hindu-majority India.

Pakistan will soon send envoys to other countries with letters from Benazir to counter an Indian diplomatic offensive on Kashmir, the official APP news agency said.

Pakistan to "build pressure on India to stop its repression in Indian-held Kashmir," the agency said.

Bangla police fire on mob; 4 killed, 200 hurt

DHAKA, Feb 9. (Reuters): At least four people have been killed in southwestern Bangladesh in violent protests after a man was allegedly tortured to death by police, officials said today.

Nearly 200 people were also injured in running battles yesterday between protesters and police in the town of Jessore.

Police deny allegations they arrested a rickshaw-puller on false robbery charges last week and tortured him to death.

One man was killed and 25 wounded when about 1,000 people stormed Jessore police station and attacked a government building.

Witnesses said three more people were shot dead and nearly 175 injured, many by gunfire, as the

violence spread.

Local authorities called in paramilitary forces to help police and imposed a ban on public assemblies of more than five people.

Britain's Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, arrived in Dhaka yesterday at the start of a six-day visit to Bangladesh.

Religious Affairs Minister Nazimuddin Al Azad and leaders of the Bangladesh Christian community greeted Runcie at the airport.

The visit was aimed at promoting understanding between people of different faiths, officials said. Runcie was due to meet President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and other government leaders.

Lankan Muslims warn of anarchy

COLOMBO, Feb 9. (Reuters): A minority Muslim leader told the Sri Lankan Parliament yesterday that eastern parts of the country were slipping into anarchy as Indian troops withdrew, leaving rival Tamil guerrilla groups to battle for control.

Muslim Congress (SLMC) leader Mohammed Ashraff said Muslims were targets of murder, kidnapping and extortion in the east.

"The law of the jungle has taken over the law of the land," Ashraff said during a debate on the "unrest" Government "army and police no longer functioned" and civilians were helpless in the face of blatant human rights violations, he said.

Ashraff accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas of killing one of his party members, abducting Muslim businessmen, and of extortion in the east.

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"These offences are tantamount of waging war against the government," he said.

He said the heavily-armed Tigers were in complete control of the area and determined to pursue their goal of a separate state. The Tigers have demanded that the SLMC surrender its own weapons, which Ashraff said is needed for its protection.

Foreign Minister and Deputy Defence Minister Ranjana Wijeratne said the authorities were investigating allegations by both sides. The government has the capacity and capability to look after law and order, he said.

In an unrelated incident, Sinhalese rebels ambushed a security patrol in central Nuwara Eliya on Wednesday, killing five soldiers and two civilians, military sources said.

More than 100 fighters were killed in battles between rival Tamil militant groups in eastern Sri Lanka, a senior police official said Wednesday.

The official said the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) Tuesday night stormed two training camps of their rival Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the jungles of Ampara district.

Salary increase

ISLAMABAD, Feb 9. (Kuna): Wages of journalists in Pakistan have gone up as a result of the interim award announced by the official wage board for newspaper employees here today.

Major beneficiaries of the award are the journalists working in metropolitan 'A' areas (major cities) who will start receiving handsome interim relief money from first Jan 1990 pending the final award which is expected to be announced in couple of months time.

Every journalist in grades one to four will be given interim relief (add-on) at the rate of Rs.800 per month while those falling in special grade (the highest grade) will receive ad-hoc relief of Rs.1,000 per month.

Newspaper employees falling in metropolitan 'B' category will get 50 per cent of category 'A'.

Employees of regional 'A' newspapers will get 35 per cent of metropolitan 'A' category while those in regional category 'B' would receive 35 per cent.

Arabic text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a note.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Opec will need help to meet demand

HOUSTON, Texas, Feb 9, (AP): World demand for oil is projected to increase in the 1990s, but the Opec nations will need financial help to meet that need and avoid another oil crisis, the organisation's general secretary says.

In an address to some 400 international energy industry executives, Subroto said Wednesday the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will have to increase production capacity to meet the projected demand for oil in this decade.

While world demand for oil is projected to rise in the 1990s, non-Opec supply is expected to fall, Subroto said during a two-day meeting on oil and gas strategies in the 1990s.

Subroto said research by Opec also indicates an oil crisis would "come at the point when our organisation no longer has the production capacity to meet the rising level of demand."

"Thus, there is a requirement to expand Opec production capacity rapidly," Subroto said.

"We are, simply, talking about a level of expenditure well in excess of our financial capabilities as a group of 13 developing countries," said Subroto, who is from Indonesia.

"If we wish to avoid a crisis, we have no alternative course, to follow, for without an adequate and rapid expansion of production capacity, there will sooner or later be a tightening of supply and a rapid rise in price, followed by years of severe fluctuations in market behaviour and considerable wastage of our finite oil reserves," he said.

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\$1.35 billion aluminium plant planned

DUBAI, Feb 9, (Reuters): Iran and a Gulf company have agreed to build a \$1.35 billion aluminium plant, the largest foreign joint project under Iran's new commitment to industrial reconstruction and development.

The Dubai-based International Development Corporation (IDC) said a statement the 220,000-tonne per year plant would be built at Bandar Abbas, just across the Gulf from Dubai on the Iranian coast.

The Iranian partner is the Ministry of Mines and Metals and the project will be completed in three years.

Details of financing and ownership were not available.

The IDC said the plant would export at least half its output when completed, which aluminium industry sources said would be a major boost to a growing Gulf aluminium export capacity.

British Gas chief in Delhi for talks

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: British Gas chairman and chief executive Robert Egan arrived in Delhi on Thursday as the head of a high-level delegation for discussions with top Indian officials in the oil, gas and energy sectors.

The company has evinced keen interest in extending its involvement in India, not only in projects within the country with Indian partners but also in joint ventures in third countries.

British Gas's main areas of interest are in the fields of oil and gas exploration, city gas distribution systems, facilities for the importation of liquefied natural gas and oil and gas pipeline transportation systems. In addition, the British Gas on-line inspection centre is offering its "intelligent pig" for the condition monitoring of operational pipelines.

The company, which is the largest integrated gas business in the Western world, is currently working on a study for a domestic gas pipeline system for Delhi and its suburbs.

Airlines launch independent computerised reservation venture

NEW YORK, Feb 9, (UPI): Delta, Northwest and TWA Thursday launched a new venture, Worldspan Travel Agency Information Services, which will operate an independent computerised-reservation system for the three airlines.

"Worldspan will be the first computer reservation system to be developed and operated autonomously of its airline owners," said Cal Rader, chief executive officer of the new venture.

"Subscribing travel agencies will no longer share a reservation system that is also tailored for use by its airline owners," Rader said, "but a truly dedicated system designed to meet the needs of travel agencies and the travelling public on a worldwide scale."

Rader, who formerly headed Delta's own reservation system, Datas II, firmly ruled out any takeover rumour linked to the venture in which the Atlanta-based carrier holds the dominant stake.

Bundesbank seeks to calm markets

Things will not get out of control, says Poehl

BONN, Feb 9, (Agencies): The head of West Germany's central bank told financial markets today not to worry about the prospect of German unification.

"The West German mark is very strong and the financial markets can have confidence that things will not get out of control," Karl Otto Poehl, president of the independent, Frankfurt-based Bundesbank, said at a news conference.

He said that he saw no big obstacles to funding unification.

"The financing problem is manageable," he added.

He added the planned monetary union should not boost West German inflation. "This need not be the case."

On Tuesday, after talks with his East German counterpart in East Berlin, Poehl spoke against rapid currency union.

"We both believe it would be premature to consider such a far-reaching step at this stage," he said.

"It is an illusion to imagine that even one of the problems in

East Germany would be solved by the introduction of the West German mark in East Germany."

Soon afterwards Chancellor Helmut Kohl issued a call for immediate talks with East Berlin on German currency union.

West German financial markets have been very nervous this week that monetary union would unleash inflationary pressures.

West Germany, pushing for monetary union and political unification with East Germany, stirred up an embarrassing row today over its partner's economic health.

The trouble started when a senior Bonn official raised the prospect of an imminent East German economic collapse.

"Insisting on anonymity, he told reporters: 'There are signs that in only a few days, East Germany could become insolvent.'"

It was this prospect, he said, that prompted West Germany on Wednesday to suggest immediate talks with East Germany.

many on a plan to introduce the Deutschmark to the East to shore up its economy.

But official spokesman for West Germany and for the East German government, led by communist Hans Modrow, denied that Bonn believed an East German economic collapse was imminent.

"The West German government does not believe East Germany could become insolvent in the next few days," chief Bonn government spokesman Hans Klein said.

Said East Berlin government spokesman Wolfgang Mayer: "As long as the Modrow government is in power, East Germany will not become unable to meet its payment (obligations)."

A West German government source said separately that Bonn was extremely worried about the state of the East German economy.

The statement by spokesman Klein, who had been present at the senior official's unattributed briefing, was intended to



Karl Otto Poehl addresses a news conference in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto)

dampen any sense of panic, the source said.

West Germany has accelerated its bid for economic and monetary union by emphasising that time is running out for the East German economy.

It concedes that monetary union alone will not solve East Germany's problems at its heads from four decades of headline communist rule towards multiparty democracy.

But it has said it wants to offer

a "signal of hope" to East Germans in the hope of stemming a mass exodus of East Germans to the West which is damaging East German industry.

The top West German official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity, said the decline of the East German economy has accelerated to the point where "insolvency could be within a few days."

He said Kohl would address the situation in East Germany during his weekend visit to Moscow, where he will meet with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

"The Soviet Union is neither prepared nor in any position to help in this situation," the official said, referring to the urgent measures needed to prevent economic collapse in East Germany.

The official also predicted that East Germany's first free elections, set for March 18, may be scheduled because of the instability of the interim government and nearly bankrupt economy.

The balloting already had been moved forward from the original May 6 date in view of the communist-led government's instability and growing unrest nationwide.

His forecast added to an increasing chorus of warnings that the East German economy is on the brink of collapse.

Poehl told reporters that monetary union with troubled East Germany will mean major sacrifices on both sides, but said the West German state can afford it and has little choice.

He added that East Germany's current leaders have openly resisted wholesale conversion of their economy to Western principles, which stands in the way of successful monetary union.

But he conceded that the current leaders are not an expression of the public's views, and that the new government to be seated after elections would likely embrace a completely different ideology that could be

more conducive to reunification.

Poehl was in East Berlin earlier in the week for meetings with East German economic leaders, and he declared after those talks that monetary union was not advisable in the near future.

"But it is fully clear that the Bundesbank, and myself as Bundesbank president and a citizen of this nation, will loyally support such an important decision of the federal government," Poehl stated.

He made clear that he differed with Kohl on the pace at which West German efforts at monetary union should proceed, but attributed the chancellor's "bold decision" to the crisis atmosphere propelling inter-German developments.

What remains to be done is "minimizing the risks" of speedy economic union, he said.

Poehl suggested that the 4 per cent growth rate experienced in 1989 and predicted again for this year could bankroll the East German bailout.

Baghdad to invite foreign firms to finance oilfield development

Iraq to boost gas export: minister

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Feb 9, (AP): Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said Iraq plans to increase its natural gas exports through greater use of its newly reopened southern terminals on the Gulf, according to a report published yesterday.

Al Chalabi was quoted by the government-run Al Joumhouria newspaper as saying Iraq will export four million tons of liquefied gas annually through the southern terminals starting in June 1.

He said a processing plant and a pipeline will be built before June 1 so gas can be exported from one central terminal in Khour Al Zubair by tanker to world markets.

Iraq is building a giant natural gas liquids/liquefied petroleum gas (NGL/LPG) plant near its southern port city of Basra to exploit the country's massive gas reserves. The plant, with an estimated price tag of \$1.5 billion, has a projected annual production capacity of 5.4 billion cubic metres.

Al Chalabi told the daily that three gas treatment plants in the huge complex have already been completed and they can process 100 million cubic metres of gas per day.

Al Chalabi did not say if Iraq has found markets for its gas exports, but energy experts said it would easily find buyers in the region and elsewhere in the world.

Iraq is believed to have one of the world's largest reserves of gas.

Al Chalabi, speaking after inaugurating a new oil field near Basra, said Iraq wanted to use all its natural gas resources.

The new Al Sabba oil field, developed by Iraq's southern oil company, is expected to produce 20,000 barrels a day initially and its capacity could increase to about 60,000 barrels per day.

The field has proven reserves of 2.2 million barrels and Al Chalabi said its oil is among the best quality produced in Iraq.

The field has also the capacity of producing 20 million cubic

metres of gas a day, the minister said.

A 39-kilometre pipeline has also been completed to carry the gas into the nearest treatment plant at the main southern gas gathering complex near Basra.

Basra has been blocked as Iraq's main port since the 1980-88 war with Iran, with control over the Shatt Al Arab waterway one of the main stumbling blocks in the peace talks stalled since the August 1988 ceasefire.

Iraq has developed a series of alternate ports and canals to allow ships to circumvent the waterway on their way to the Gulf.

Another major gas field is under development in the Gulf region, with nearby Qatar planning to bring 300 million cubic feet a day from its North Field in the first stage of exploitation underway.

Meanwhile, a senior Iraqi oil ministry official told Opecna today that Iraq would invite foreign oil companies to develop new oilfields without incurring

any additional costs as payment would be made from the oil found.

In a telephone interview from Baghdad, Sami Sharif, under-secretary at the oil ministry, when asked what particular fields were sought to be developed, replied, "we have many fields."

Sharif's remarks were in line with a number of international press reports saying that the Iraqi government was making a major effort to increase the country's oil production capacity by inviting foreign companies to develop, specified oilfields in return for payment in crude.

In an interview appearing in this week's issue of "Platts' Week", Al Chalabi was quoted as saying that a political decision had been taken to allow foreign companies to directly finance its upstream operations.

"We will pay back the investment with the crude from each particular project," the minister said.

Big gas refinery opened

Turning point for Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 9, (Reuters): President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani today opened the giant Kangan gas refinery which would enable Iran to export natural gas to the Soviet Union, Tehran radio reported.

It said the plant near the Gulf coast would begin by refining eight million cubic metres (282 million cubic feet) of gas per day.

It described the plant as the world's second biggest gas refinery once two stages of expansion boosted its capacity to 80 million cubic metres (2.82 billion cubic feet) per day.

The Iranian news agency Irna on Wednesday quoted Mohammad Ismail Kordchian, head of the National Iranian Gas Company, as saying Iran would finalise a deal next week for exporting eight million cubic metres of gas to the Soviet Union from April 1.

Gas would flow from Kangan, 860 km (540 miles) south of Tehran, through the Igat-1 pipeline to the border town of Astara on the western coast of the Caspian Sea.

Iran's natural gas reserves estimated at 14 trillion cubic metres (494 trillion cubic feet) are the world's second second largest after the Soviet Union.

The Kangan plant was attacked several times by Iraqi jets before the Gulf war halted with a ceasefire

in August 1988.

Rafsanjani told Iranian television the inauguration of the Kangan refinery was a turning point for Iran, securing supplies for industries to be built under the country's five-year plan.

He said the plant's maximum daily output of 80 million cubic metres was the equivalent of 700,000 barrels of kerosene and diesel fuel, enabling Iran to substitute gas for a large part of its domestic energy consumption.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told the television he expected the first phase of the Kangan project built by the South Korean firm Daewoo to be fully operation in a few months, refining 35 million cubic metres (1.24 billion cubic feet) per day.

Plans were for the plant to reach full capacity after completion of the second phase by March 1993, he said.

Meanwhile, Iran signed contracts worth a total of \$345 million for the complete reconstruction of two oil platforms in the Gulf heavily damaged by US naval forces in an April 1988 attack, Tehran radio said.

Monitored in Athens, the radio quoted Aqazadeh as saying the National Iranian Continental Shelf Company signed a \$300 million deal with a Japanese company to complete the reconstruction of the Salman platform in the southern Gulf.

Dollar firm

LONDON, Feb 9, (UPI): The dollar closed mostly higher against the major European currencies today.

The dollar closed higher in Frankfurt at 1.6750 German marks against 1.6690 at Thursday's close, and also higher in Zurich at 1.4945 Swiss francs against 1.4915, in Paris at 5.6810 French francs against 5.6635, in Brussels at 35.083 Belgian francs against 34.96, and in Milan at 1,242.60 lire against 1,239.

In London, the pound closed higher at \$1.6905 against \$1.6875 at Thursday's close.

In Zurich, gold, which has lost \$8 in two days, closed lower at \$416 per ounce against \$418 per ounce at Thursday's close. Gold also was lower in London at \$415.75 per ounce against \$418.15 per ounce.

Silver closed lower in Zurich at \$5.30 per ounce against \$5.35 per ounce, and also was lower in London at \$5.27 per ounce against \$5.32 per ounce.

Tokyo stock prices slipped in quiet trading as investors retreated to the sidelines ahead of a three-day weekend.

The key 225-share Nikkei Average dropped 228.10 points to close at 37,288.14, reversing a 214.37-point gain on Thursday. Volume was a very light 350 million shares.

Govt hopes for fresh money from banks

Kabul to seek rescheduled debt, loans

KABUL, Feb 9, (Reuters): Afghanistan, devastated by a decade of war, is considering asking world lending institutions to reschedule its debt repayments and to consider fresh loans this year, Finance Minister Hamidullah Tarzi said today.

Afghanistan is hoping for fresh development money from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and for balance-of-payments assistance from the International Monetary Fund, Tarzi said, adding Kabul was still finalising proposals.

He told Reuters he was sounded out World Bank officials and "while they are not very enthusiastic about giving us loans, they have not closed the door on the prospects."

Tarzi said Afghanistan's foreign debt stood just below \$10 billion, with service on the debt devouring six to 10 per cent of export earnings which last year totalled \$675 million.

Afghanistan owes the bulk of its debt to the Soviet Union with the remainder owed mainly to multilateral institutions in the non-communist world, Tarzi said.

Kabul recently asked Moscow to reschedule its foreign debt, he added, but declined to give details.

He said Afghanistan had sufficient foreign reserves in dollars, gold and special drawing rights to finance a year of imports which totalled \$500 million in 1989.

Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishmard said last week the country's gross national product in 1989 was about \$10 billion.

billion Afghanis (\$919 million), 15 per cent of which was allocated to defence.

Afghanistan used to get aid of about \$60 million a year from multilateral sources before the 1978 revolution in which communists came to power in a bloody coup.

"Now we get less than 15 million annually, which is nothing," he said, denouncing the United States for orchestrating a loans boycott against Afghanistan.

Washington is the main arms supplier to Mujahideen rebels fighting to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan a year ago on February 15, ending more than nine years of direct involvement in a war in which more than a million people were killed.

Tarzi estimates Afghanistan needs at least \$10 billion for general reconstruction when the war ends.

He says the United States would be morally obligated to provide most of the money for free for what Kabul calls Washington's role in prolonging the war.

Tarzi estimated per capita income at an optimistic \$270 to \$300 a year, with 85 per cent of Afghanistan's population of 15 million and 65 per cent of its gross national product dependent on agriculture.

Afghanistan's main exports are wool, carpets, dried fruit, natural gas and misols. 11 main imports are sugar, edible oils, tea, electrical equipment and steel products.

The nation trades about 40 per cent of its imports and 35 per cent of exports with non-communist countries, Tarzi said.

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American producer prices up

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): A mid-winter cold snap sent US wholesale inflation soaring 1.8 per cent in January, the steepest one-month rise in more than 15 years, the government said today.

The spurt in the Labour Department's producer price index was nearly triple the already brisk 0.6 per cent gain in December. If wholesale inflation persisted at the January pace, it would produce an annual price rise of 24.1 per cent.

Economists, however, were not overly concerned. January inflation one stop short of the retail level was attributed almost entirely to sharp but temporary increases in the price of fuel oil and vegetables.

Last month's gain was even steeper than the 1.2 per cent jump predicted by most analysts. The last monthly increase of greater magnitude was recorded to November 1974 during the Opec oil embargo, when prices shot up 2 per cent in one month.

The so-called core rate of inflation — prices excluding the volatile food and energy sectors — rose a slight 0.1 per cent in January, the mildest rise since April.

"Our projections for the year clearly expect a reversal of these cold-related increases," economist Donald Ratajczak of Georgia State University said in advance of today's report. "Virtually all the price rise caused by the water will be reversed in the spring."

Energy prices in January rose 13.6 per cent, the biggest increase since the Labour Department began compiling that index in 1974. Fuel oil prices were up a startling 25.3 per cent, also the biggest jump on record.

As refineries switched production to fuel oil, supplies of gasoline grew short, sending those prices up 16.7 per cent. Natural gas costs rose a brisk 3.2 per cent.

Food costs, meanwhile, shot up 2.1 per cent, the sharpest rise in six years. The price of fresh and dried vegetables rose 58 per cent for the month, the largest seasonally adjusted gain recorded since the department began tracking that category in 1967.

Egg prices climbed 12.5 per cent on top of a 9.1 per cent rise in December. Over the past 12 months, egg costs have risen 45.2 per cent. Fruit was up 3.9 per cent and fish rose 6.3 per cent.

The increases were partly offset by substantial declines for other items. Rice dropped 1.1 per cent; pasta, 5.8 per cent; chickens, 2.8 per cent; and turkeys, 11.9 per cent.

Aid package approved

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): The House of Representatives approved a \$42-million aid package for Panama on Wednesday that lawmakers said will help the Central American country boost its damaged economy.

The measure, which was approved by a voice vote, also includes \$10 million to help newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe prepare for elections.

Republican Congressman Gerald Solomon called the \$42 million a way of "finishing the course that 'just cause' began. It combines aid, trade and investment."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has endorsed a similar package for Panama, and the Senate is expected to approve it shortly.

The Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday waived the normal 45-day review period and voted unanimously to lift the trade sanctions imposed two years ago because of Panama's involvement then in drug trafficking.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2899	0.2914
Sterling	0.4886	0.4930
DM	0.1730	0.1750
Sfr	0.1930	0.1950
Ffr	0.0506	0.0514
Lira	0.000235	0.000236
Japan	0.001986	0.002008
Bahia	0.7690	0.7720
UAE Dir	0.07891	0.07933
S. rial	0.07726	0.07768
Q. rial	0.07960	0.08005
O. rial	0.7327	0.73680

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Bonn trade surplus overtakes Japan's

First time since 1970s

BONN, Feb 9, (Reuters): West Germany announced a record trade surplus for 1989 today, putting the Europe's dominant economic power ahead of Japan for the first time since the 1970s. Official data showed West Germany's exports surged last year as demand intensified for its quality engineering goods.

Bonn's trade surplus jumped five per cent to 134.7 billion marks (\$81 billion) to 1989. Japan's 1989 trade surplus was \$77 billion.

But economists said West Germany may not wear its laurels for long once economic union with East Germany, a goal the Bonn government is rapidly pressing for, is realised.

"We'll see a significant drop in the surplus because of East Germany," said Ulrich Hombrecht, German economist at Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale in Dusseldorf.

East Germany's citizens, who have suffered for years from consumer goods shortages, will soon start equip-

ping themselves from scratch. They would probably start coming to West Germany to buy consumer goods which are not made here.

That would swell West Germany's imports and curb its foreign surplus. "Many of the things they want, like electronic goods, are not made here and will be imported," said Hombrecht.

Such imports could slice West Germany's 1990 trade surplus by up to 20 billion marks (\$12 billion), said Warren Oliver, an economist at UK brokers

Phillips and Drew.

West Germany's 1989 current account surplus, which includes services such as banking and insurance as well as goods, rose 16 per cent to 99.1 billion marks (\$60 billion).

Bonn last had a bigger current account surplus than Japan in 1976, when a huge oil price rise cut Japan's surplus.

Tokyo, which faces continued criticism from trading partners, expects its trade surplus to fall this year.

But economists at the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) think-tank say the Japanese surplus will rise again in 1990 after falling in 1989.

Dresdner Bank economist Rolf Schneider said West Germany's monthly trade surplus were already dwindling in the last three months of 1989 because of East Germans moving here.

More than 300,000 East Germans settled in West Germany last year and more are coming at a rate of up to 3,000

a day. The Federal Statistics Office said West German mark should be valued against other European currencies. However, European governments oppose any such move.

A statistics office official, Siegfried Guckes, told journalists West Germany's trade surplus were especially large with France, Italy and Britain. He gave no details. West Germany's trade surplus with all EEC countries rose 40 per cent to 14.5 billion marks in 1989.

Saudi stock index jumps

Share market poised for steady growth in '90

BAHRAIN, Feb 9, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's infant share market looks poised for steady growth in 1990 after dramatic gains last year in stock prices of some banks and industrial firms.

Plans to launch the first electronic share dealing system in the Gulf in April and possible new share flotations should whet investor appetite for Saudi stocks, share analysts said yesterday.

But slower growth in company profits and government steps to curb speculation should keep share price rises lower than last year, when the official stock index jumped 20 per cent.

"The market will continue to grow but in a more normal way based on improved company performance — we will not see the kind of wild speculation we saw last year," said a member of the Riyadh-based consulting centre for finance and investment.

In October the Saudi index for 55 listed companies traded on the kingdom's telephone and telex market broke 100 for the first time since it was set up in February 1985. It has continued to rise, reaching 110.26 at the end of January.

Figures released by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency



Mohammed Ali Abal Khail

(Sama) show the total value of shares traded in 1989 was 3.4 billion riyals (\$906 million), 65 per cent up on 1988.

Traded share value of listed commercial banks soared 205 per cent over 1988, taking up about half the total business volume.

Cement firms followed with a 52 per cent gain in traded share value, then industrial companies with 36 per cent and service firms with 25 per cent. Analysts said this was offset by sharp declines in the electricity and agriculture sectors.

Banking sector gains were caused partly by a general econ-

omic recovery in the kingdom fuelled by higher oil prices, the analysts said.

But the main cause was the popularity of Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corporation, whose share price shot up to a high of 1,800 riyals from 100 when they were issued late in 1988.

Duty of up to 20 per cent placed on imported cement at end-1988 sharply boosted the performance of local cement firms.

Profits of Arab cement company rose five-fold to 111 million riyals (\$30 million) and its share price trebled.

Saudi Pharmaceutical Industry and Medical Appliances Corp (Spimaco) — which has yet to begin operating — was a market leader in the industry sector. Its share price rose to 338 riyals in December from 168 in January 1988 on news of deals it had arranged with international drug companies.

In a bid to halt price swings, Finance and National Economy Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ali Abal-Khail warned investors in October against unwarranted speculation.

Prices for some firms fell as a result, with Al Rajhi shares plunging 500 riyals to about 1,300 just

after the announcement.

"The Saudi share market does not run on company news — it runs mainly on rumours," a banker commented at the time.

Analysts said Sama went out of its way to protect investors but its rules aimed at doing this sometimes made it hard for firms to go public or to raise capital.

Any company which wanted to sell shares to the public must first agree with the Ministry of Commerce on an existing share value, based on its fixed assets rather than on performance.

This could lead to undervaluation of shares of established firms, while new companies with no track record could find it easy to find buyers for their shares, the analysts said.

Government rules also prevented shareholders from taking money raised through a public flotation out of the company, so if they wanted to recoup part of an initial investment they did so through a private placement, the analysts said.

Bankers said automated share dealing would revolutionise the market by providing accurate pricing and information, enabling small investors to compete better with large ones.

KD deposit rates rise

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Reuters): Kuwaiti short dates deposit rates were well bid on Thursday pushing rates higher, dealers said.

Overnight, tomorrow-oest, spot-oest and one week rose to a uniform 8-9/16 8-1/2 ahead of the Muslim weekend from Wednesday's 8-5/8 3/8.

"The Central bank raised the yield on secondary bills by about a 1/4 pct today. They were traded at 8-5/8 3/8 which pushed bids on short dates higher," one dealer said.

The long-date market remained quiet. One to three months were seen around 8-5/8 3/8 while six months and a year were little changed at 8-11/16 7/16 from the previous 8-3/4 1/2.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate to 0.29024/34 to the dollar from Wednesday's 0.28980/90.

World Bank loan for Rabat

RABAT, Feb 9, (Reuters): The World Bank has lent Morocco \$79 million to finance the reconstruction of 1,000 kms (600 miles) of highways, the official news agency Map said today.

It was the second World Bank loan to Morocco this week after \$170 million lent to finance an industrial and tourism promotion programme.

The 20-year loans with five-year grace periods will carry variable interest rates currently at 7.75 per cent.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Feb 9					
Pr. Close	Open	Close			
ACC	330	328	322.50	Hind Lever	103
Alem Chem	—	—	—	Hind Cocco	143
Alw Nis	—	—	—	Hind Motor	24.75
Ari Fab	—	—	—	Hindaleo	220
Ashok Ley	85	85	82	Hoechst	1630
Asia Paint	210	210	210	Ingersoll	205
Atlas Cop	39	38	38	ITC	25
Auto Corp	50	47.50	50	Iud Org	53.50
Nat Index	376.02	387.50	380	Indust Rayon	53.50
Bajaj Auto	388.75	387.50	380	Indrol	196.25
Bar Rayon	705	700	687.50	JK Syn	53
Bow Plast	194	191.50	186	Kin Engg	146
Burr Wd	85	80	85	Kir Cumm	145
Cambare	—	—	—	KSB Pumps	197.50
Can Enka	3125	3100	3005	L & T	65
Can Sng	2500	2490	2480	Lipton	86
Colgate	182.50	182.50	181.25	Mac Russel	158.75
Cromal Gr	930	900	925	Mad Costs	75
DCM	14	13	14	Mahindra	75
Dang Fert	30.50	30.25	30.25	Sest Goa	75
Dunlop	60	58	60	Shaw Wall	—
El Hotels	60	58	60	Shree Cem	52
Emvita	79.50	78.50	79	Shri Fib	103
RSE Index	647.47	650.00	645.00	Sigma	1300
Eskayef	128.75	127.50	123.75	SKF	52.50
Esar Sng	36.50	36.25	36.37	St Mills	63
Food Spl	103	102.50	102.25	Tata Oil	122.50
Forbes	50	47.50	48.75	Tata Pow	425
Gar Poly	43	42.50	42.50	Telco	113
Glindia	99	98	93.50	Tisco Agro	105.75
GNFC	37	37.25	37	Vareli	137.50
Grasim	100	108	107.50	Volsa	20
ICE Shpg	45.75	46	44.25	Volvo	670
GSFC	162.50	160	157.50	Wanco	22.50
Guj Alid	78	77	76	Zenith	55
Guj Heavy	15	14	15	Zind Agro	39
Hero Honda	17	15	18		
Hind Cba	1165	1150	1110		

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.	
KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.	
Period	Bid Offered
1 month	8-1/2 8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2 8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2 8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2 8-3/4

Indian rupee	0.017250
Sri Lanka rupee	0.07350
Pakistan rupee	0.013690
Bangladesh taka	0.008440
US dollar	0.2899
Pound sterling	0.4886
UAE dirham	0.07891
Deutsche mark	0.1730
Japanese yen	0.001986

Oil talks

The ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kuwait, Claus Soenksen, paid a courtesy visit to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapex) on Wednesday. He was received by Abdel Aziz Alwattari, Oapex's acting secretary-general. Alwattari briefed the ambassador on Oapex's activities and concern with developing the oil industry in its member countries. Discussions also covered the importance of energy in raising the standard of living in developing countries and the role of energy conservation in the industrial countries. Alwattari (right) pictured with Soenksen.

Coca-Cola lights up Moscow

MANAMA, Bahrain: Coca-Cola, the world's most popular soft drink, now has unprecedented exposure to Moscow consumers. E. Neville Isidell, senior vice president of the Coca-Cola Company and president, The Northeast Europe/Africa Group, recently dedicated a beautiful new neon Coca-Cola sign high above Pushkin Square, one of Moscow's busiest intersections. The 6 by 12 metre neon sign is the first and largest Western advertisement of its kind in the Soviet Union.

"Coca-Cola is the number one soft drink in the world," said Isidell. Coca-Cola soft drink products are consumed more than 559-million times a day around the world, Isidell added. "This Coca-Cola sign in Pushkin Square is a visible indication of our commitment to grow our business in the USSR and our desire to become part of the every day life of Soviet citizens." Coca-Cola and



Coca-Cola sign in Pushkin Square is a visible indication of commitment to grow business in the USSR.

Fanta are local favourites in the Soviet Union and have been available there since 1985 and 1979 respectively.

The Moscow sign joins an exclusive list of Coca-Cola neon signs that are located in many outstanding cities around the world.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

For Subscription in Treasury Bills
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BILLS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION, distributed over the following denominations:

KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000

in compliance with the Rules and Regulations mentioned below:

1.	Description	Issue No. (94)	Issue No. (95)
	Amount of Issue:	KD 130 million	KD 100 million
	Issue Date :	Wednesday 14/2/1990	14/2/1990
	Due Date :	Wednesday 16/5/1990	15/8/1990
	Offering Period:	From : Saturday 10/2/1990	10/2/1990
		To : Tuesday 13/2/1990	13/2/1990
	Allotment:	Wednesday 14/2/1990	14/2/1990

2. Delivery of Bills: After one week following the date of submitting the application.

3. The Provisions of these Issues shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Yaum) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.



Vasantotsav

The Bengali Cultural Society recently celebrated its annual spring festival, "Vasantotsav," at the Mousatrap Theatre in Jabriya. In keeping with tradition, they dedicated the evening to children, organising several competitions including painting, recitation and a quiz contest. The competitions were open to children of all ages and the winners received medals and cups, among other gifts.

The fun-filled evening ended with the grand Ananda Mela, in which the Bangali ladies took part. They prepared a feast of Bengali food and sweets and held a bazaar featuring handicrafts from the Indian state. The India Tea Board joined in the activities adding a taste of tea, courtesy the Tea Board representative in Kuwait.

Pictures show (Clockwise from left): some of the participants, the painting competitions, a competitor.



BBC world service highlights

Afghantsy

For more than nine years the Soviet Army fought in Afghanistan. Some 15,000 were killed, many were wounded physically and many more suffered mentally. They returned home bewildered yet proud to have served their country. Stephen Dalziel has been talking to Afghans—veterans of the Afghan War—in Moscow and Leningrad and has discovered that although the fighting is over these men still have their battles to fight at home.

Sunday, February 11 at 19.15 and

Monday, February 12 at 10.30 and 16.30.

The Long Sunset

R.C. Seriff's play is set in AD 410 when the Roman army is about to set sail for Italy from the South-east coast of England leaving Britain undefended. Julian and Serena are among the Roman families left behind and they face the approaching threat of Saxons and Celts who are converging on the country. Arthur and his wife Guinevere are rumoured to be leading a small army to restore law and order. Will he prove to be a saviour or is their time in Britain

over for ever? Reginald Marsh, Gwen Watford Edward de Souza star in the production adapted for radio by Penny Leicester.

Sunday, February 11 at 15.01 and 22.01.

At Home With Bob Wilson

When Arsenal Football Club won the FA Cup and League double in 1971 in goal for them was Bob Wilson. Paddy Feeney visits the goalkeeper turned television personality at his home and talks to him about his career.

Friday, February 16 at 17.45

Sunday, February 18 at 12.15 and

Monday, February 19 at 07.45

Gold and Silver

Nigel Douglas introduces The Bells of Corneville by Robert Plaque, an opera which was all the rage in the 1880s but is now rarely performed.

Friday, February 16 at 13.30 and 20.15. Recommended frequencies for these areas are: 17.64 MHz/17.01m 15.07 MHz/19.91m 11.76 MHz/25.51m

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Batman
Salmiyah
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Al Firdous
Jeane ki Arzon
Fahad Open
Fahad
Araro Araro
Al Jahra
They Went That Way
Granada
Dead End City
Salaikhah
Ninja Champion
Jeeb
Unnikrishante Aaydayate
Christmas
Ahmadi Drive-in
Snur Grapes

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.11 am
Zohr 12.02 pm
Asr 3.10
Maghreb 5.33
Isha 6.51

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

THE MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran

9.40 Sabah Al Kher News

9.50 Cartoon serial

10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 Shua'a Fi Al Madhi: Arabic serial (part 11)

11.25 Sabah Al Kher News

11.30 Wadan Zaman Al Samt: Weekly Arabic serial (part 6)

12.25 News Summary

12.30 Sabah Al Kher News

12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

THE EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran

4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

4.45 Saham Al Fadh: Cartoon serial

5.15 The Young Artist: Local children programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Sheikh

5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements

6.00 Wa Qala Hakem: Historical serial (part 2)

7.00 Varieties

7.15 Noor Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qader

7.45 Cultural programme

8.00 Security and Citizens: Local programme, prepared by The Ministry of Interior, Public Relations Department

8.30 Gond Evening and Local News

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Dacrat Al Ahdath: Weekly local programme, prepared and presented by Kamel Sulaiman Al Abdul Jaleel

10.15 Ahlam Sagheera: Local serial (part 2),

starring Suad Abdullah, Ibrahim Al Salal, Hayat Al Fahad and Khaled Al Obaid
11.00 Thaib Al Nashama: Weekly Beduin serial
12.00 News Summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.25 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The Adventures of Raggedy and Andy: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Orphans of the Wild "Ostriches" Pt. 2: A look at ostriches being the fastest animals. Their speed reaches 40 miles per hour.

7.00 The Ultimate Machine: Music and dance and their effect on body muscles.

7.30 The Hagan Family "Moving On": David takes care of house affairs while Sandy has to assume her duty as a teacher

8.00 News in English Leap: "Campirazi Kid": Sam with the help of "Al" the invisible man, has to prevent Sheril from marrying Bnb. He appears like her brother

9.30 The Nuclear Weapons Eps. 2: Armament race between the two great powers. The production of the Giant B.I. plane which is capable to penetrate behind the Soviet frontlines. New technologies and their role in military developments

10.30 Late night film. "Something So Right" Starring: Ricky Shreuder, Patty Diuke

12.00 News in Brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite



KTV2, 9.30 - The Nuclear Weapons.

ARTS

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00-12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2433259.

Craft Centre
MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

Hobby Centre
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah
14 Feb. Architecture of Mamlok Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

ABSCONDING

Please help trace Faisal Abbas Rana Matur Rahman, bearing passport No. C806397, who is absconding after failing to pay KD 850 as dues to Al Khaleej Insurance Co. against the purchase of a Toyota car in 1986 bearing No. 2710. Informant will be rewarded.

Contact Bangladesh Embassy 4831605 (Mr A. Rahman, First Secy), 4310970 and 4316960 (Mr M. Moazzuddin) or 4316823 (Engr Abdur Rab).

SOCIAL

Hobby Centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Konkani drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sounsarant Astana Dhat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharg) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Carnival Fiesta '90
YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour".

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

Like a Hurricane!!
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 3730265/2543219.

Singapore festival
SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent.

The oriental extravaganza will present Lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore tourist promotion board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel front office, tel. no. 5657000.

Valentine's Party
VALENTINE'S Party: Come join the fun. Feb 15 dinner buffet-Top Ranks band, door prizes, Cupid's arrow awaiting! For more information call Nina on 5339623 or Kathy on 2523992 (between 6 and 8 pm).

British Council
THE ITALIAN JOB: Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 February 6.30 pm, 130 min.

The title is Italian but the case is most definitely British. Michael Caine and Noel Coward star in this fast, entertaining comedy caper. With wild chases, palace, the job culminates with the robbers in their mini cars using the piazza, arcades and roof tops to make their getaway causing the world's biggest traffic jam.

STUDYING, COMPUTING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE IN BRITAIN

Whether you want a short course, a 2-year diploma, a BSc, or a PhD - we have the information you need. Come and visit the Education Office on Monday, 12 February or Tuesday, 13 February and access our computerised database! Our staff will be there to assist you and help find a course to suit you.

One Act Play Rehearsals

Kuwait Players are holding auditions for a selection of one act plays to be staged in April. If you're interested in directing, acting or assisting backstage, do come along to the auditions at 7.30 pm on Monday Feb 12th or Tuesday Feb 13th. Please phone 5615357 for details of venue.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Daniella Fastelahn

Daniella celebrates "Fastelahn" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne - Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie - Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990. At Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets, can be ordered by phoning 3919759.

Videos of the recent very successful pantomime Sinbad the Sailor, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

ACT

ACT's production of Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5731782.

Valentine's Day

14 Feb: Valentine's Day Special dinner in Messilah Beach Hotel from 8-12 pm. Live entertainment, complimentary bottle of Bulmagne, a red rose for each lady and free raffle entries. Book your table in advance. Call 5624111.

Carnival Dinner Nite

Carnival dinner nite by the Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers, on 22nd Feb, 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards: Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Momo, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Ramba Samba dance competition. Group prizes, and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese takeaway. Tel: 5617243.

British Council

Children's film: Wednesday, 14 Feb, at 6.00 pm; Thursday, 15 Feb, at 10.30 am. Five On 1 Demon's Rock: The Famous Five go treasure hunting after hearing about a legend of hidden gold in the Wrecker's Cave near Demon's Rock. Join them in their exciting adventure in their search for an old gold coin. 44 min. Admission is free but please book seats by calling Tel.: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

SPORTS

Seven a side tourney

ACOI Overseas is pleased to announce their first one day tournament which will be held on the 2nd of March 1990, at the Al Sour Grounds. For further information contact: Cassimiro D'Souza or Albert Leitao.

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts

with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

NBK/MBH Invitation Tennis Tournament

Under the patronage of Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah Governor of Kuwait City. Invitation tennis tournament on Friday 16.2.90 organised by Messilah Beach Hotel in co-operation with National Bank of Kuwait. Duhles and mixed double. Many wonderful prizes to be won. Free refreshments and snacks throughout the day. For more details call MBH on 5624111 ext 739, 751.

Steps Ballet

Steps Ballet School thanks the organisers of the Russian Ballet in Cinema Andalus on Feb 2nd and 3rd. We were all very happy to be able to see them perform. It meant a great deal to our students who have never before seen real ballet performed in Kuwait. We hope that it will inspire children who are learning ballet here in Kuwait. Steps Ballet School is

open for registration for girls to learn ballet or jazz. Please contact the Kuwait English School afternoons only Sat to Wed 5653216/8 ext 55. Mornings only 9-12 noon 5386481.

Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th, 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro."



French Film Festival

Tonight the first film of the French Film Festival will be screened at the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium at 7.30 pm. Reals (145 mins) is directed by Philippe de Broca and is starring Sophie Marceau and Philippe Noiret. The film is a 1988 production.



Miss France and French football players at The Versailles

The Versailles Restaurant at the Meridien Hotel was graced with the presence of Miss France who joined the players of the French national football team.



Moody but never mean, Bono has kept his compassion during his rise to the top.

Movie-making

Playing the showbiz game

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): Aspiring movie producers, take note. Industry veterans Sally Smith and Michael O'Rourke have a few things you should know.

For example, if someone says he has the financial backing to make a \$30 million picture, what he really means is he's having lunch with two guys from Japan next week.

Or if studio representatives say they want to "run with this on an informal basis," it means they like your project—but not enough to pay you for it.

And that business associate who said to call him after Cannes? Well, he is really thinking you're a loser, but he could be wrong and it's a small town.

Pessimistic? Maybe. But Smith and O'Rourke know what they're talking about. Between them, they have racked up 16 years in the movie industry and they have the war wounds to prove it.

However, their trials and tribulations haven't cost them their sense of humor. In fact, their encounters with stolen scripts, cancelled television shows and abandoned movie deals inspired their creations—a comedy item and a board game for anyone curious about show business.

"The big-time producers kit" comes with a script, a contract with a major studio, a VIP studio parking pass, two plastic Oscars and an irreverent guide to movie lingo.

"Starstruck," the version, comes with real popcorn in a film canister. Both items are available in specialty shops.

The game began as an industry survival manual the couple put together to entertain friends.

"We've seen it all," said Smith, 41, "and every topic we raised as a possible chapter heading for the manual brought to mind some really hilarious experience we'd had trying to establish ourselves in the business."

O'Rourke, 47, who speaks quietly and thoughtfully in a slight southern accent, has directed more than 100 instructional films for physicians and others in the medical community, on surgical techniques and other topics.

He also directed several television series, including ABC's "That's Incredible," and the 1980 and 1984 winter Olympics for ABC sports.

But feature films have eluded him. The writer-producer-director thought he finally hit in 1985 when he was hired to direct a \$3.5 million film set in Ireland. But the financial backers pulled out at the last minute.

The script was wonderful, but it just never materialized. It was a real heartbreaker," he said.

Smith's first experience in television ended with the cancellation of the show "On Trial" in 1988. She worked as a production secretary on the science fiction spoof "Amazon Women on the Moon," but found the star-studded film disappointing.

"It was disheartening to work on a big-budget film and have it turn into garbage," she said.

The couple, together for eight years, have learned another hard lesson about people. O'Rourke said he gave two of his most promising scripts to self-dedicated producers who produced nothing but hot air.

"Eight million people in Beverly Hills call themselves producers and don't know what the word means," he said.

Between jobs rewriting scripts, selling scripts and optioned films, O'Rourke said the entertainment industry has provided a very good living at times, but he does stress that the work is sporadic.

The two met in a hospital where Smith worked as a surgical scrub nurse and she has had to rely on those skills occasionally to pay the bills.

There was a time they owned their own airplane, a 26-foot sailboat, drove an array of luxury cars and travelled overseas every six weeks.

They have one car now. They decided to sell nearly everything to finance their dream of attaining all the things that come with being a top film producer—power, influence and more money.

"Who we decided to make movies we knew it was going to be a struggle to establish ourselves so we gave it all up," said O'Rourke.

They lived on their savings while making two low-budget horror flicks they wrote and produced last year.

The vintage rock 'n' roll tune "Be My Baby" by the Ronettes accompanies the little scenario, but no words. No English. No Dutch. No French. Nada.

Other spots in the celebrated Levi's series feature a guy who puts his jeans in the refrigerator to cool off on a hot, dusty day, and a pawnbroker who refuses to purchase a man's watch or sunglasses but gladly buys his blue jeans.

"They're hardly the peak of intellectual activity, but they are particularly exceptional because the message is so understandable and immediately recognizable," said Peter Marr, television director for the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers.

With the near-completion of the

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Lifestyle

A borderless pantomime, Chaplinesque language

BRUSSELS, (UPI): The man with the rugged Levi's jeans always gets the girl. In any language, or even no language at all.

In Europe, where ancient language barriers remain after iron curtains part or Berlin Walls fall, silent television ads have emerged as a new borderless pantomime, a chaplinesque universal language for modern times.

The much-talked-about Levi's ads are classic.

When a couple's car breaks down on a remote back road, a stranger wearing Levi's stops to help. Taking the girl in his pickup truck, and taking off his jeans, he uses the trousers as a towrope to pull the disabled car. When the Levi's prove stronger than the car's bumper, a sad sack is left behind in his useless car as the stranger drives away with the girl, the jeans and the bumper.

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With the near-completion of the

European Economic Community's 1992 single-market programme, TV commercials that transcend linguistic boundaries are becoming increasingly attractive to advertisers seeking to appeal to 323 million customers in 12 nations.

"There's no question that with more companies doing business in more European countries, you're going to see more ads that cross the frontiers," said Pierre Leduc of McCann-Erickson Ad Agency in Brussels, which handles speechless commercials for Coca-Cola and Martini Rossi.

The soundtrack for a Panasonic video camera ad uses only the Beatles song, "All You Need is Love." American and British pop music, like slapstick and mime, is a global language.

"The main objective is to have a universal message," said Marr. "You don't want 10 different ads with 10 translations because they often don't come across well."

Some commercials of the genre, like the Levi's ads, have no words at all. Others have no dialogue, but include a narrator's voice-over. In any case, the key is to avoid the expense of reshooting or dubbing.

"Dubbing often doesn't work, and can be very costly even for the simplest of dialogue," said Jeremy Bleazard of the Linas Ad Agency in Brussels.

"Someone saying 'yes I do' and another person saying 'Thank you very much' may work great in 15 seconds in English, but might take four minutes in Serbo-Croatian," he said. "Humour also

restricts you in dubbing. Translating humour is incredibly complex."

Another significant advertising factor, experts say, is the recent introduction of satellite television networks in Europe, including the US-based Cable News Network and the European version of the Popular Music Television (MTV).

"Until recently the only people who engaged in international ads were the major supermarket brands, but that is changing," said Stephen Gash, who directs the Levi's account for the London-based agency Bartle Bogle Hegarty.

"It's surprising that people in Barcelona might feel the same about life as someone in Frankfurt, but we're finding that they do," he said.

Adds another advertising executive, Andy Rork of Saatchi and Saatchi in London: "If you're talking to a teenager, it doesn't matter much whether they're from London or Hong Kong or San Francisco. It crosses frontiers."

He warned, however, that not all commercials play well across the peripheries of Europe.

"More and more advertising is going across countries, but the type of ad that crosses frontiers well is really the idea that is universal, that appeals to human emotions, which can be expressed clearly in visual terms," he said.

A new British Airways ad, being shown in nearly 40 countries, features 4,500 schoolchildren who form a huge smiling, winking face against a stark backdrop,

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Music

'We'll rock till we drop': U2



Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen and Adam Clayton

THE world's favourite rock band, U2, has a message to cheer up millions of miserable fans: "Don't worry, we are not splitting up."

The four members of the Irish super-group deny rumours that they are soon to disband. They have vowed to keep on rocking till they drop... and the nineties could be their most successful decade yet.

U2 will be back, bigger and better than ever, after a short break to recover from a gruelling four-month tour of Europe, Australia and Japan.

A spokesman from the band's record company, Island, told me: "Stories that U2 is over are a complete load of rubbish. The group's just finished a very punishing world tour and all they want is a rest."

"They are exhausted after spending such a long time on the road. But they have absolutely no intention of breaking up."

"People got the wrong impression when Bono said he 'wanted to do something else.' All he meant was that he needed a change from touring."

And the scare stories that Bono, U2's charismatic lead singer, is in danger of losing his voice, are also false. The truth is that he had a nasty dose of flu which made him cancel two gigs in Amsterdam.

But the big-hearted band could not bear to disappoint its Dutch fans. When Bono recovered, U2 put on extra concerts in Rotterdam for everyone who had missed them the first time.

It was a typical gesture from a group that has kept its principles intact, while rising to the pinnacle of acclaim.

Status

U2 is a remarkable success, but the band members have worked hard to reach the top. Their status as rock legends is the result of steady slog and genuine talent.

Since the day when drummer Larry Mullen formed U2 in 1977, with three of his Dublin schoolmates—Paul "Bono" Hewson, Dave "The Edge" Evans and Adam Clayton—ambitions have been set high.

As long as 1981, Bono was already looking towards an illustrious future: "I don't mean to

sound arrogant," he said, "but even at this stage, I do feel that we are meant to be one of the great groups."

"There's a certain spark, a certain chemistry, that was special about The Rolling Stones, The Beatles and The Who. I think it is also special about U2."

"So if people come along expecting the world from U2, they're going to get it. That's what we're here to give them."

Yet the young Paul Hewson was a withdrawn boy from a humble background. He lived with his father, a house painter, in a rough area of Dublin called Ballymun.

His mother died when he was in his early teens, a tragedy which he later felt was responsible for his difficult behaviour at school.

Bono remembered: "I couldn't put in the work because I was too erratic. I found that a game like chess suited me more. I was able to put all my problems from my mind and concentrate on something abstract."

Fortunately, the teachers at his "experimental" Dublin school, Mount Temple Comprehensive, were sympathetic... even when he decided to be a punk.

He spiked his hair, threaded a chain from his nose to his ear and marched into the classroom. Said Bono, "I did it in the interest

of vibing people up."

"I was like a kid who eats coal. He knows he needs some special nutrient, but he doesn't know what it is. I tried being a punk, but I realise it wasn't right for me."

Secret

From an early age, Bono was clearly different. With his school friends he invented a secret, imaginary place called Lypton village, where they would pretend to live by playing out different roles.

Part of the game involved rechristening each other with names they felt were more apt than their real ones. So, Paul Hewson became "Boo Vox," the Latin for "good voice," and Dave Evans became "The Edge."

The band's quietest member is their modest drummer Larry Mullen, but he was the one who brought them together by forming a school group he called Hyge.

The name changed to Feedback before they finally settled on U2. Bono explained: "It was something which suggested communality. We were, after all, a combination of four individuals who were totally different."

"We were four people going nowhere and we decided to go there together. We were four

rejects from the system, all intelligent people, but we probably wouldn't have been accepted for the electricity board or the civil service. All that we had in common was music."

Larry Mullen added: "The teachers encouraged us. They even gave us a room at school to use for rehearsals. They helped tremendously by pushing us to concentrate on what we were really good at—music."

Popular

U2 played their first concert at Mount Temple School in early 1978. According to Bono, it was one of the best they ever gave. Soon afterwards, they began to perform on the Dublin pub circuit.

Their popularity grew through their Saturday afternoon concerts in Dublin's open air Dandelion Market. Other venues included a car park. In fact, U2 would play anywhere that their fans wanted to hear them.

By St Patrick's Day, 1978, they were good enough to win the Guinness and Harp Musical Talent Competition. Although Bono said: "We were a shambles and I'd lost my voice. But, still, I knew we had something. I knew we had an effect on people."

Their prize was £500 and an audition with CBS records. They were offered a recording contract

just in time to persuade Larry Mullen's father that his son was in a proper career. Mr Mullen Sr nearly ended the group by insisting that Larry went back to school.

In September 1979, U2 found itself at the top of the Irish charts with their first number one single, U2.R. swiftly followed by their next, Another Day.

The group really began to make an impact when they switched to Island Records. Singles such as A Day Without Me caused quite a stir and their first album, Boy, was hailed as a classic.

Their following has leapt with each successive album. Rattle and Hum was their seventh—it went platinum.

Art

But it is on stage that U2 are at their most exciting. They can transfix an audience of thousands with their electrifying presence. A concert can take so much out of Bono that a roadie is specially employed to catch him if he falls off the stage.

The Edge said: "It's not U2 that is creating the 'great art.' That's why I can be so arrogant about what we do, because I don't think that it's essentially us doing it. It's just something that works through us to make far deeper work."

To many people's minds U2 were the highlight of the Live Aid concert in 1985, but Bono was not happy with the image the group projected.

He said: "I realised later that it looked all wrong when I came down to touch the audience, as if I was coming off my pedestal to bless the masses."

"I didn't mean to do that at Live Aid. Afterwards, I just went out and drove for days. I couldn't really speak to anyone. At Live Aid, the whole question of Africa and the idea that millions were dying of starvation brought home the triviality of the world of rock 'n' roll."

But Bono did more than just think about the Ethiopian problem. He and his wife Alison flew out to the country, without any publicity or press coverage. They spent six weeks living in squalor as they fed the hungry and taught them about vital hygiene, through songs and short plays.

Women's rights

The 1983 report by the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic offered a blanket statement about women's equality in the republic. Its presenters were impervious to tough questioning by the panel of 23 people, mostly international women lawyers and parliamentarians.

During this year's session Ukrainian representative Nikolay Makarevich offered that "due to patriarchy, quite a few problems had been identified, particularly in the areas of employment, outdated views on the division of work at home and the lack of high-level participation in decision-making by women."

In the United States, the convention is under consideration by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"The United States has traditionally been slow at ratifying any international treaty."

Evatt said.

"There are certain pragmatic actions in the convention, but there is also a range of economic, social and cultural rights which do not give rise to overnight equality. But we have seen change."

In terms of international law, Evatt said that ratification sometimes means that countries must "bring their own laws into compliance with the convention's ideals."

The document has served as a model in many countries.

In Australia, the convention served as the basis for the country's sex discrimination law of 1984. Brazil's new constitution takes its sex discrimination prohibitions from convention articles. In Colombia, a videotape showing women what they can do about violence in their homes discusses the convention as a legal resource.

The convention also reflects dynamic forces, such as glasnost.

"In the past few years we have seen much more openness in reporting from

Eastern European countries," Evatt said.

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FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Question: I wish I could get an appointment with you just to sit down and talk about my problem, because my own doctor won't. I'm having severe problems with my heart and digestion, and sometimes cannot catch my breath. Instead of dealing with my physical problems, my doctor keeps directing his attention to all types of emotional situations. Please tell him he is wrong and to pay more attention to me.

Answer: I have had to select just a few important sentences from your eight-page letter, but I would like to help you and many other readers who are experiencing similar problems.

It's pretty clear to me that you're a person who is suffering with a problem you don't quite understand and feel a bit frustrated that the physician is not dealing with the problems you think you have. From your long list of complaints that include your stomach, your heart and lungs, your bladder and bowels, and your nerves, it's clear that your problem is a general one that can most probably be related to emotions or, if you will, a psychological problem.

Now, this is not the first diagnosis that must be considered in cases such as yours. Rather, a complete but delicate consideration of all the possible physical causes of your complaints must be carried through with the laboratory and clinical evaluations that can help to clarify your situation since anxiety disorders (yes, that's what I think your problem is) can take many forms, and can be provoked by many factors.

Your physician, by your own account, has done just this, and his evaluation has now focused attention on your problems as they affect your lifestyle. His prescription for "tranquilizers," which you dismiss as being an easy way out, is just a beginning of therapy, and the choice he has made for your specific case shows a great deal of insight and thought has gone

Listen to what
doctor tells you

into the selection. All tranquilizers are not the same, and until your fears and doubts can be reduced, it's difficult to move forward.

Many other people do have similar problems, and your doctor's statement that he has success before, and his willingness to continue to see you, demonstrates his real concern for your welfare. When a doctor takes the time to carefully seek out the physical causes for anxiety, prescribes appropriately while continuing ongoing care, and takes time to spend with you (no

Valentine's Day

Women are more romantic, men demanding

By Andra Varin

OSTON, (UPI) — On Valentine's Day, men turn to the perfect gift, but while women dream of chocolates and roses, men are more likely to fantasize about slinky giggles, a researcher says.

Boston University researcher Kathleen White says the sexes have different expectations when it comes to romance and relationships, and those differences get even greater as years go by.

Kathleen White, acting chairwoman of the university's psychology department, began interviewing 300 young adults, both married and single, 10 years ago. She is now following up on her subjects and says the disparity in views on romance becomes even greater with age.

The main complaint of women in their 20s is

that their boyfriends or husbands rarely say the words "I love you," White said. "In their 20s it was certainly true that the women wanted men to say 'I love you' more directly," White said. "I've had a number of men say to me, 'why do I have to say it? I come home every day, I help around the home.' Some would even say 'I think if you say I love you, too, often it cheapens it.'"

While both men and women in their 20s place equal importance on sex, women frequently complain that their partners only become physically affectionate as a prelude to sex — or in an effort to resolve an argument.

"Very often women would like more physical expression of affection from them, specifically at a time when they are not fighting," White said. "Women say 'I don't want to kiss and make up until we've got it settled.'"

The gap grows wider as the couples age.

"In their 20s, I did not see evidence that men are more interested in sex than women," White said. "In their 30s, at least with married couples, the stereotypes are coming true."

"Couples in their 30s are living lives that are much busier and more stressful than they were in their 20s. Both husbands and wives say they just don't have time to relax together. They don't feel appreciated. On one level, they know their partner loves them, but on one hand they wish their partner would show it more. Their job comes first, or the children come first."

Gesture

In such cases, each partner wants the other to make an extra effort to reaffirm their love, but ideas of what that effort should involve vary widely, White said. Women look for a gesture that symbolizes romance, while men want more frequent and exciting sex.

"The women, even the ones who don't have children, they're still working full time. If (sex) has become more routine. Both husbands and wives say they'd like more romance, but if anyone says they want more sex, it's the husband."

And while men may say they want more romance, they equate the term with sex or believe romance should lead to the bedroom, White said.

"Women are talking about more emotional closeness. Men are talking about physical closeness. Women need talking and cuddling, men (want) physical affection, including sex," she said, adding that married women in their 30s often feel too tired for sex.

Even if their husbands have helped (with household tasks) they don't seem to have the energy.

She said women anxious to revive the

romance in their lives will think wistfully of a candlelit dinner.

"The husbands, what they want to do is have the wife buy something from Frederick's of Hollywood and come prancing in."

The good news, White says, is that compromises are easy to achieve — with a little communication. Couples who take the time to ask each other about their needs are happier, she said.

"They take time just to talk about how they're doing, what they're missing. They're responsive — they really listen to each other."

These couples, White said, will occasionally surprise each other with small gifts. For example, the husband might do the dishes, if this is a task the wife traditionally performs, or the wife may allow the husband some time to himself before she asks him to help with the child-care.



People

She walks all over them

THE street-wise stars of television's *The Bill* know exactly how to unwind after a hard day on the beat. They get someone to walk all over them.

The actors ease away the aches and strains of police work with help from the ancient art of Thai massage... a technique in which the masseuse stands on your back.

Mark Wingett, who plays the keen young D.C. Carver, is a devotee of the method since spending a four-week holiday in Thailand with his 27-year-old fiancée Sharon Martin.

He said: "I was with Sharon when this Thai woman came up to us and asked if I wanted a massage. I was a bit dubious at first. But after I'd agreed to a session, I felt really wonderful."

"Out there, everybody does it. To them, this type of massage is nothing special. After the first time, I had it done every morning for the rest of the holiday. By the time I got home I felt great."

Now Sharon, a beautician, has opened her

own saloon, called The Body and Beauty Parlour, in Islington, North London. It comes complete with resident Thai masseuse, tiny 4 ft. 10 ins. Lek Lakman.

Sharon, who stands a statuesque 5 ft. 10 ins. tall, said: "There are limits to the size a masseuse can be if she's going to walk along your back. Lek weighs about six stone, which is ideal. Now, if I tried standing on you, it might not feel so comfortable!"

When I called in on Sharon's parlour, Lek was practicing her art on members of *The Bill* cast.

Mark stripped to the waist to sample her nimble footwork. Grinning manfully as she tip-toed around his shoulder-blades, he said: "Oooh! It feels lovely, but I wouldn't recommend it on top of a full stomach."

Among the onlookers were Vicki Gee-Dare, who plays the caring W.P.C. Ford, and glamorous Nula Cornwell, W.P.C. Martella in the series. They couldn't be persuaded to expose themselves to a full massage.



The long arm of the law is tested for strength by Lek and Nula Cornwell.

But fitness fanatic Nula opted for a gentler head and neck massage, done with the hands instead of the feet.

She told me: "It felt brilliant. I'm into all this health and beauty stuff anyway. I go to the gym three times a week to work out. I have to be in training to do some of the episodes we shoot."

"Recently I had to play a scene where I brought a guy into the station after chasing him all round the streets and onto a bus. The producers actually checked that I was fit before we started. Otherwise, I'd collapsed from a heart-attack at the end."

"I'm sure a regular massage would make you feel very tranquil, but it wouldn't do much to improve your stamina when you're chasing villains."

Technique

Thai massage is based on a similar principle to the Japanese method of Shiatsu, which stimulates pressure points all over the body.

Sharon told me: "The Thai technique is very relaxing but it's also excellent for healing purposes. Lek uses her hands as well as her feet, and the heat in her fingers really penetrates the muscles."

"When she walks along your back she helps to realign the spine. You can almost feel your spine stretching back into place. But it's very gentle, not at all violent."

"I absolutely love having the massage myself, although I had to talk Mark into trying it for the first time. He wasn't too keen in the beginning."

"The method is excellent for stress-related problems. It even helps people to give up smoking by reducing the pressure in their lives. A couple of ladies who come to the parlour use the massage to help them stick to their diets. They say that it makes them less edgy."

"I suppose that actors tend to be quite highly-strung as well. I'm sure that Thai massage would work for them, too."

Down at Sun Hill nick, they are used to people getting on their backs... but only to give them an unpleasant time.



Mark Wingett, alias D.C. Carver, lets tiny Thai masseuse Lek Lakman walk all over him.

Conservation

Flight to freedom

PORT LOUIS, (Reuters) — Conservationists on this Indian Ocean island watched contentedly last week as a rare Mauritius kestrel called Bali flew off to freedom.

A decade of hard work had saved the species from extinction. In 1974 only four of the birds were known to live in the wild. According to kestrel specialist Carl Jones: "The population balanced precariously on the point of extinction and conservationists predicted its doom."

Bali, a six-month-old female, was the 100th Mauritius kestrel to be released under a captive breeding project which appears to have saved the bird from the history books.

Experts say that with another four years' help, the species will be able to continue its recovery naturally.

The decline of the Mauritius kestrel and several other Mauritian birds began in the 18th century when the island's early colonists chopped down the birds' natural forest habitat to plant sugar cane.

The kestrel was nicknamed the "chicken-eater" — unfairly, since it never attacked poultry — and was a frequent target of farmers' guns.

Its decline was hastened in the 1950s by the widespread use of DDT and other strong chemicals to eradicate malaria-carrying mosquitoes and farm pests.

By 1960 the Mauritius kestrel had become desperately rare. The last

surviving birds lived in the lush Black River gorges in the southwest of the island, which had not been sprayed.

Bali's great grandparents lived wild in the Black River gorges, but her grandparents were raised in captivity from eggs taken from a nest.

Their offspring were bred in captivity and exported to the world centre for birds of prey in Boise, Idaho, to become part of a breeding project.

Born in the United States, Bali was brought to her ancestral home last October and was quarantined on Ile Aux Aigrettes, a small island southeast of Mauritius.

As the 100th bird to be returned to the wild, she was set free by agriculture, fisheries and natural resources minister Madun Dulo at a special ceremony on January 29.

Bali will be left on Ile Aux Aigrettes for a while to adapt to the wild before being recaptured and released again on the main island.

Local and overseas conservation groups have been breeding kestrels in captivity for release into the wild for a decade, putting eggs taken from nests in the Black River gorges in incubators and hand-rearing the chicks.

"We are more efficient at hatching and rearing their young than kestrels are," Jones said.

Taking eggs from kestrels in the wild makes the birds lay an extra clutch, so improving productivity, he noted.

Scientists have also encouraged wild kestrels to lay more eggs by feeding them a supplementary diet of white mice.

Most of the birds bred in captivity have been released and a total of 112 kestrels will have been freed by the end of February.

Not all of the released birds survive long enough to breed, although those freed in areas where there are no other kestrels do best. Where the young have to compete with established birds, only about 40-60 per cent are reckoned to survive their first year.

Romance

A new angle to the love triangle

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI) — Director Jerzy Skolimowski believes that a man can genuinely love two women at once.

That belief is reflected in Skolimowski's latest film, "Torrents of Spring," a story of a love triangle that ends in tragedy.

Based on Ivan Turgenev's novel, the movie is now showing in limited release, starring Timothy Hutton as the love-smitten male. His two loves are performed by Nastassia Kinski and Valeria Golino.

Skolimowski, a Polish expatriate who makes his home in Santa Monica, California and who directed the hit "Moonlighting" starring Jeremy Irons, is a romantic who looks on "Torrents of Spring" as a classic 19th century love story.

"The film, like the book, is based on a true account of an episode in Turgenev's life," Skolimowski said recently while hun-

ching in a Chinese restaurant near his home.

"When he was 22, Turgenev fell hopelessly in love, and then fell just as hopelessly in love with another young woman two days later. He is, of course, condemned to lose them both."

Married for 23 years to his Polish wife, Skolimowski said he has had no such personal experiences, but he thinks it is possible for women, as well as men, to be romantically in love with two persons at the same time.

"There is hardly a more fascinating subject in the human experience than a love triangle," he said.

Case

"For some reason, it is more intriguing when it involves two women and one man, as opposed to two men and a single woman. Usually in that case one of the men will abandon the situation quickly.

Men do not like to compete under those circumstances.

"Anyway, it looks better on the screen to have two women and one man. A man involved intimately with two women is not as harshly criticised as the woman with two lovers. I do not say that is right or fair, but it is the case."

"It is partly true because if a woman becomes with child, no one can be sure who the father is. But if one man is involved with two women, the parenthood is obvious — at least it was in the 19th century."

"The book was written in 1872 but the story takes place in 1840, the tale of a Russian aristocrat who visits Italy and on his way home stops in Germany where he falls in love with a young beauty, only to be seduced by another temptress within 48 hours."

Skolimowski is convinced passionate

love stories for the screen must be told in period films. He says there is very little romance today, with sex having replaced romantic love.

"The pace of period films is different," he explained. "So are the attitudes and feelings of the lovers. The settings, too, are softer and more romantic."

"I've made an elegant movie with a smooth pace. There is a feeling for the filmmakers that they are watching something that is really happening before their eyes. I did not use technical tricks."

"This is the first love story I have directed, and I am so happy with the result. I may become a specialist."

Strangely, Skolimowski believes Americans appreciate love stories more than Europeans, perhaps because Europeans are not so naive about affairs of the heart. He says they are more jaded, adding, "They've seen it all."



Patrick Wayne presents Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry of L.A. Law with a special award for their efforts in the fight against cancer at the Benefactors Party of the John Wayne Clinic.

Cancer care

Get well with the blessing of stars

AND now a galaxy of celebrities, as glittering as the cast of one of his epic movies, is backing amazing new treatment for the disease which killed screen idol Wayne ten years ago.

Joan Collins, Linda Evans, Burt Lancaster and stars of the Emmy-winning TV series *L.A. Law* are just a few of the tinsel town celebrities who have helped raise funds for the pioneering John Wayne Cancer Clinic in Los Angeles.

Wayne's own family, as well as the "family" of TV soap *Dynasty*, have given millions of dollars to the appeal to save the dying.

The Division of Surgical Oncology at the UCLA School of Medicine was named the John Wayne Clinic after Duke, as he was known, was treated there for the cancer which ended his life on June 11, 1979. Wayne became fond of the division and the doctors who worked in it and after his death his son Michael led the drive to rename it in his father's honour.

Today, admiration for the tough action man who appeared in more films than any other actor is so great that after one half-

hour television programme on the cancer clinic, 5,000 people jammed the switchboard clamouring to volunteer for its life-saving work.

Every day brings new hope for the thousands of cancer victims who attend the clinic. Scientists there, who are working against the clock to solve the deadly riddles set by the disease, have made some astonishing breakthroughs. And they know they have the full support of their parents — whose names read like Hollywood Who's Who.

Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker of *L.A. Law* won an award for their help. It was presented by another of the star's sons, Patrick Wayne. Other benefactors include Dallas star Larry Hagman, film idol Charles Bronson, Bob Hope and Mrs Danny Kaye.

Research

Every researcher agrees that the most effective way to fight cancer is to detect it early — when it is usually at a curable stage. And the John Wayne Clinic has devised an "antigen early detection test" which is being hailed as a major leap for-

ward in eliminating the disease.

It involves the testing of a substance which is produced on the surface of cancer cells, called antigen.

Although antigens have in the past been almost impossible to test, today the John Wayne Clinic has perfected a complex, eight-hour procedure to do so.

The centre believes that if the test lives up to its promise so far, the cancer death rate all over the world can drop dramatically.

Dr Donald Morton, whose friendship with John Wayne during the actor's final battle with cancer inspired the drive to rename the clinic, has carried out intensive research in the exciting new field of cancer immunology.

The top doctor is convinced that cancer patients can develop immunity against the disease. He has pioneered a treatment which uses a tubercular vaccine to stimulate the body's own immune system to produce anti-bodies to fight and destroy cancerous cells.

Dr Morton has also had success in a radical new technique which involves

making a culture from cells drawn from a patient's own tumour.

Cells from that culture are then extracted, weakened with radiation, and re-injected into the patient. After this, they act as a spur, encouraging the body to produce anti-bodies.

This year, more than 1,400 new cancer patients will be referred to the clinic for consultation from hospitals all over the world. The clinic also has a powerful volunteer organisation which has nearly as vital a part to play in its successful running as the dedicated doctors.

Donna Rosen, president of the John Wayne Cancer Clinic Auxiliary, told me: "The work is truly its own reward. The auxiliary is so dedicated to the clinic, there is such a feeling of warmth and love, that once people become members, it seems like they can't do enough."

Members of the auxiliary, which was brought together by two women who had been successfully treated for breast cancer, include fashion designers, high-powered career women, writers, artists and top executives.

BLONDIE



MAGNUS THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUM



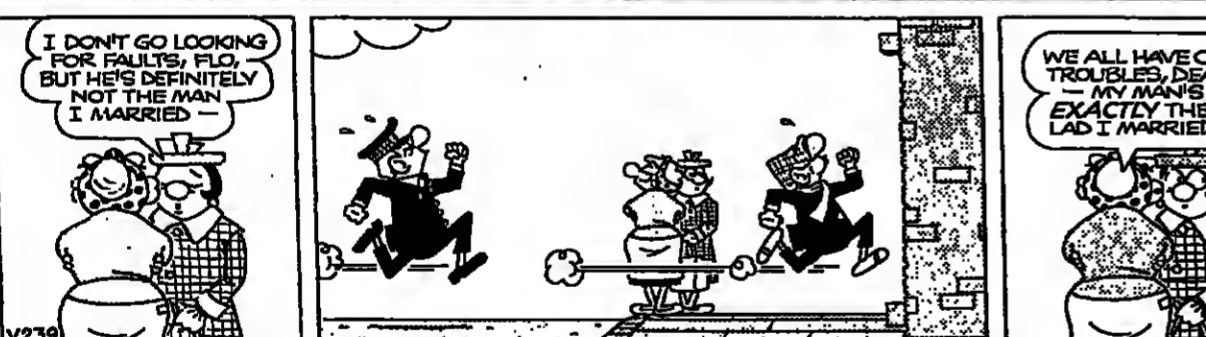
BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



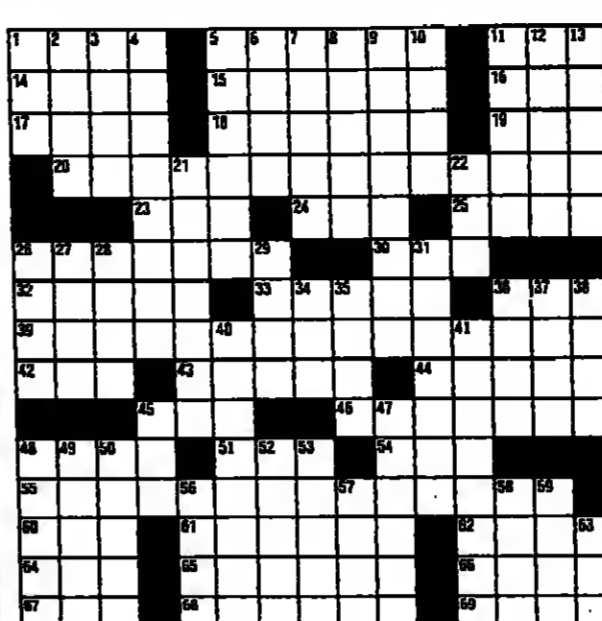
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Eject
- 5 Book page size
- 11 New Deal agency
- 14 Young salmon
- 15 Roofer, at times
- 16 Exclamation of discovery
- 17 Wings
- 18 Literary ridicule
- 19 Edge
- 20 Jean Harlow, e.g.
- 23 Musical syllable
- 24 — culpa
- 25 Remove rind
- 26 Zero
- 30 Certain discs, for short
- 32 Ancient Mexican
- 33 — Rogers St. Johns
- 36 Onager
- 39 Cardinal Newman hymn
- 42 Charged atom
- 43 A Lauder
- 44 Orphan of musicals
- 45 Tokyo, formerly
- 46 Treats for kitty
- 48 Designer Cassini
- 51 Sound of disapproval
- 54 Former Chinese leader
- 55 Stevenson pirate
- 60 Work unit
- 61 Sleep-inducer
- 62 Admit frankly
- 64 Bertrand's need
- 65 African wildcat
- 66 Floor covering
- 67 New neighbor
- 68 Glacial ridges
- 69 Robert —

DOWN

- 1 Bath, e.g.
- 2 Feeler
- 3 Ol' a period
- 4 Encircled
- 5 Legendary Gaelic hero
- 6 Highland group
- 7 An O'Neal
- 8 Many — (often)
- 9 Out loud
- 10 City on the Oka
- 11 Chili con —
- 12 Reprove
- 13 Ship of the desert
- 21 Fooled
- 22 Wife of Saturn
- 25 — Me Tangers
- 27 Bread spread
- 28 Gov't agt.
- 29 "Look Homeward, Angel"
- 31 Sound of ch, e.g.
- 34 After HST
- 35 Certain current,
- 36 Hindu fire god
- 37 Icebreaker, e.g.
- 38 Fr. holy women
- 40 Radioactive forms
- 41 Invent
- 45 Breakfast choice
- 47 Swiss poet and family
- 48 Obtained from oil
- 49 Poet Garcia —
- 50 Canadian mystery writer Howard —
- 52 Evade work
- 53 Fascal
- 56 "Carmen" role
- 57 Headliner
- 58 Wicked
- 59 Gable's Butler, e.g.
- 63 — Willie Winkle

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

CAROL SLAB JAMB
ARENA TDDO URAL
TOMES ACER MIST
CME STRIPEDBASS
HAWAII TAIL
SINARE SEESAW
TINKERED SALE
ADE TAXICAB KDI
LEAF CAVALIER
CARAFE TWIST
RENT ASSES
BASSETHDUND LEA
ANTI REDS RAINY
TOAD AMIS UKASE
INGE PEER MAISER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

THE KING IS DEAD

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 2
♥ Q J 8 2
♦ K 7 3
♣ K J 10 5

WEST EAST
♠ Q 10 8 5 3 ♠ A J 9 4
♥ K ♥ 6 5 3
♦ J 10 9 2 ♦ A Q 8 5
♣ 6 4 3 ♣ 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K 6
♥ A 10 9 7 4
♦ 6 4
♣ A Q 9 8

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 3 ♥
Pass 4 ♥ Pass 3 ♥
Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Two of the prime considerations in the play of a hand are *assumption* and *deduction*. And, in the words of a popular song, "you can't have one without the other." This hand from a rubber bridge game was reported in the *MidSouth Bridge Forum* by Joe Scott of Rogers, Ariz.

Conventionally, North's jump to three hearts was invitational. South's raise to game was routine, since his 13 HCP were well bolstered by intermediates and distributional values.

West led the jack of diamonds, and declarer rose with dummy's king. East took his ace, then continued with queen of diamonds and another, ruffed by declarer. How would you play the hand?

At first sight, it might seem declarer should simply play the percentages and take the heart finesse. But appearances are often deceptive (especially for a candidate for a bridge column, which would hardly have seen the light of day had the contract depended on a mere finesse). First, consider what you need to make game.

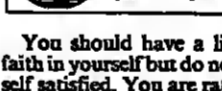
You have already lost two tricks, so you can afford to lose only one more. Unless East has the ace of spades, you are destined to lose two tricks in that suit, so you must assume that East has that ace. That enables you to deduce that West has the king of hearts. Why?

East, who passed in first seat, has already shown up with the ace-queen of diamonds (6 points) and, you assume, the ace of spades (4 points). If he had the king of hearts as well, he had a sound opening bid. Therefore, you have deduced that West has the king of trumps, so your only chance is to find it singleton. So plunk down the ace of hearts, watch the monarch fall and claim your contract.



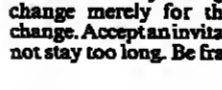
Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will experience something of a disappointment but will know how to cope with it. Try to show a little more goodwill towards others. Make sure you keep within limits of speed and safety. Be less dependent.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You should have a little more faith in yourself but do not become self-satisfied. You are rather liable to miscalculate. Instead of being angry about it, just try again. Be true to yourself.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will have a tiring day and should try to have an early night. Make necessary changes but no change merely for the sake of change. Accept an invitation but do not stay too long. Be frank.



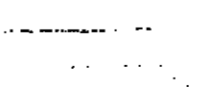
Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will be in good mood but must avoid too much exuberance. You should do your best to avoid making mistakes, better than correcting them. If you expect results to fall into your lap you will be disappointed. Be tactful.



Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

You will be tempted to gamble for what appear to be good odds. Don't, there are some hidden risks that alter the odds entirely. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 45. Make sure you do not leave any doors or windows unlocked. Be sociable.



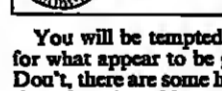
Virgo
Aug 22 - Sept 22

Something you hoped would happen will not, but the result is not as bad as you had feared it might be. You should not trust to your instincts and intuitions, instead be guided by reason.



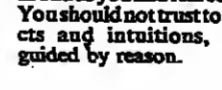
Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

You should not keep others waiting. Make sure that you keep a promise you have made even if there are difficulties in the way of so doing. Do not rely on others doing just what you would like them to do. Be reasonable.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

You should show a little more goodwill towards others. Also avoid trying to get your own back — if you do you will not succeed and aggravation will result. Take the best care of your health. Be respectful.



Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22

Do not keep anyone waiting for something you had promised to do. If you have to drive too. If you are feeling tired do not stay up too late. Be tolerant.



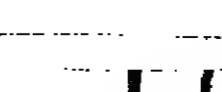
Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 19

You will have some good ideas but first you should discuss them with your partner. Avoid spending more than you can readily afford. Take better care of your health, particularly watch your weight. Be sincere.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

You will have a lot to do and there just is not time to do everything you wish. So do what is most important and what you have promised to do. Avoid saying anything you know well you should not say. Be respectful.



Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

Do not leave a letter unanswered, that would be most discouraging. Try to set a good example for your children. Avoid allowing things to accumulate either at home or in the garden. Be fair.



"The word on the street is that a guy named Hannibal is looking for a bunch of elephant trainers."



"Are you telling me your company expects you to sell cosmetics with a face like that?"

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.

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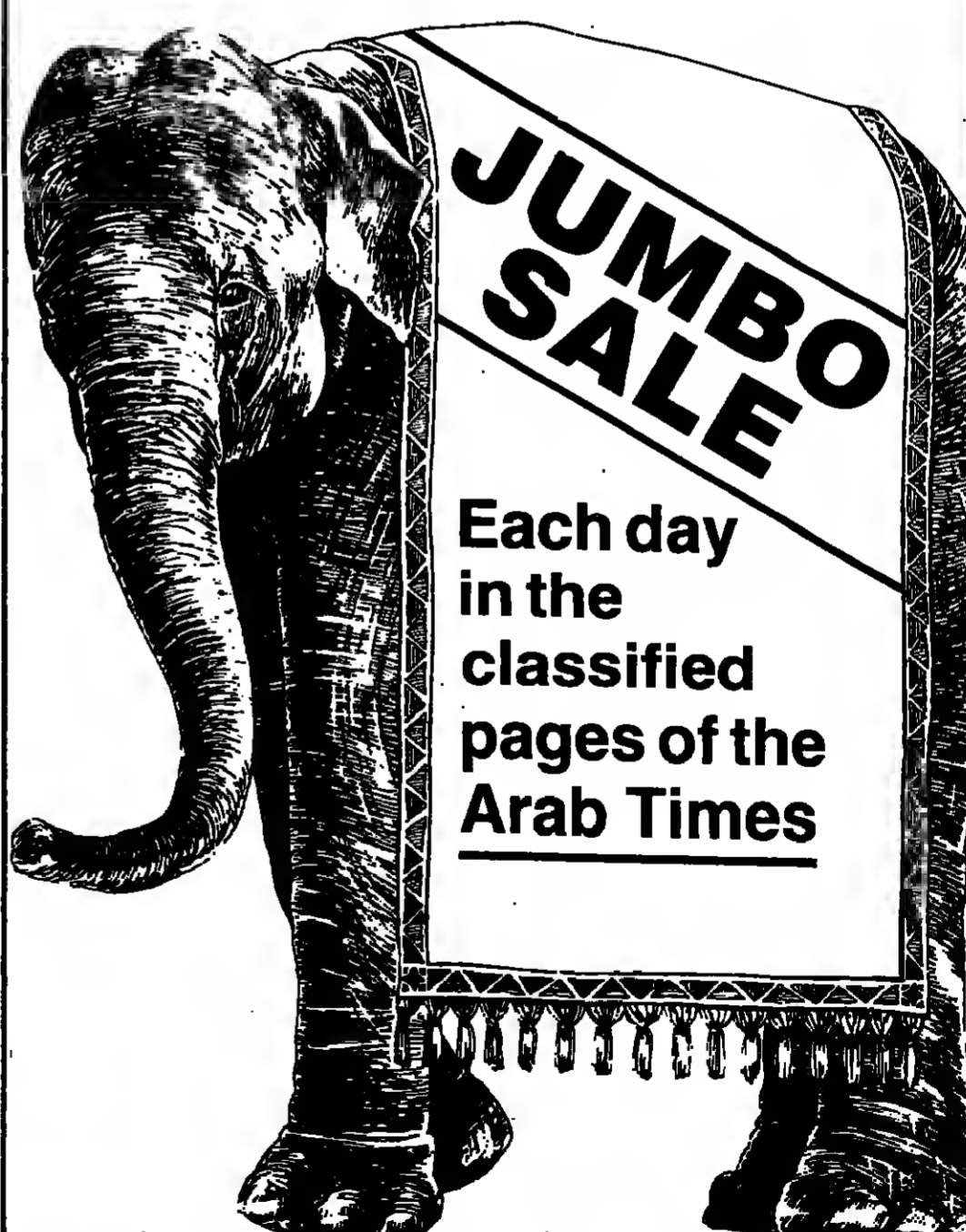
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Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Dittmar surprises Jansher, Jahangir brushes aside MacLean

TORONTO, Feb 9, (Reuters): Chris Dittmar of Australia pulled off a major upset when he beat world champion and world number one Jansher Khan of Pakistan in straight games at the Toronto Invitational squash tournament yesterday.

Dittmar, 25, ranked third in the world, scored a 17-16 15-13 15-6 round-robin win over Jansher, who escaped a defeat to the Australian in the World Open last October.

In other matches, Jahangir Khan of Pakistan beat Briton Mark MacLean 15-5 15-12 15-5, and Adrian Davies of Britain beat Canadian Sabir Butt 15-10 15-9 12-15 2-15 15-4.

Both Jansher and Dittmar had looked razor sharp this week and the Group B round-robin match was eagerly anticipated. Dittmar started off by constantly stretching Jansher, but the young Pakistani, known as 'Rubber Man', showed his supreme manoeuvrability and rarely more than two points separated them in the first game.

They swapped the lead until 14-11 when Dittmar called for a three point tie-break. Jansher reached game point first but hit the ball out of court. Dittmar then seized his chance and won the opener 17-16.

Dittmar came out slowly for the second game and trailed 1-6 but found his stride and pulled level at 11-11. At this point Jansher seemed to lose heart and Dittmar won it 15-13.

Wales name squad for rugby game

CARDIFF, Feb 9, (Reuters): Wales have made three changes, all in the pack, for their clash against high-flying England in the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship on February 17.

The Welsh visit Twickenham looking for their fifth straight win over England with veteran Laurence Delaney at prop in place of David Young, who transferred to Rugby League last week.

Delaney, 35, last played for Wales when they beat England at Cardiff Arms park last season, robbing the English of the Five Nations title.

Gareth Llewellyn comes into the second row as replacement for Kevin Mosley, sent off during Wales's 29-19 defeat by France in Cardiff in their opening match on January 20 and banned until August 31. Llewellyn, 20, wins his second cap following his debut against the All Blacks in November.

Richie Collins wins his 12th cap at open side flanker in place of Gary Jones in his first international since December 1988 when he was in the side beaten at home by Romania.

"We felt we needed to inject a bit more pace into the back row. We had decided to do that anyway for the game against England because of the way they play, and the way we want to play against them," said Wales coach John Ryan.

"We feel we need to be a bit quicker about the field at Twickenham and provide our backs with some quicker support than they have had in previous games."

England, who crushed France 26-7 in Paris on Saturday and lead the Five Nations table, are favourites but the Welsh have won in only four of their last 27 meetings.

"It's England, so the players will be raising their game. We have picked a side that we feel can beat them," Ryan said.

Team — Paul Thorburn: Mark Titterton, Mark King, Mike Hall, Arthur Emyr; David Evans, Robert Jones (captain); Mark Jones, Richie Collins, Gareth Llewellyn, Andy Allen, Phil Davies, Laurence Delaney, Kevin Phillips, Mike Griffiths.

Sieben returns to swimming

BRISBANE, Feb 9, (Reuters): Former Olympic champion Joo Sieben announced his comeback yesterday, just days after fellow Australian Lisa Curry won four gold medals at the Commonwealth Games to crown a successful return to competitive swimming.

Sieben, 22, caused one of the great test upsets of the 1984 Olympics by beating hot favourite Michael Gross of West Germany in the 200 metres butterfly final in world record time.

The Queenslander's comeback, which will be coupled with Sieben studying for a law degree, is being financed by sponsorship valued at \$75,000 from a real-estate company.

Pacers outplay Spurs

Nuggets thrash Bulls



Golden State's Sarunas Marciulionis (right) snatches a rebound in a NBA game on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

DENVER, Feb 9, (AP): The Denver Nuggets held National Basketball Association (NBA) scoring leader Michael Jordan to a season-low 15 points and sent Chicago to its fourth straight loss, 123-98 last night.

Jordan, averaging 33.2 points per game, was defended by Pat Lever and Todd Lichti and did not reach double figures until seven minutes remained in the game. Jordan had only one shot in the second half and shot just 5-for-18 from the field.

Alex English scored 24 points, Lever had 18 and Walter Davis 17 for Denver. Horace Grant had 16 points and Craig Hodges 15 for the Bulls, who have struggled in their Western Conference road trip.

Pacers 105, Spurs 100. Chuck Person scored 32 and the Indiana Pacers snapped San Antonio's 20-game home winning streak, beating the Spurs 105-100.

Reggie Miller had 28 points as the Pacers beat San Antonio for the eighth straight time.

David Robinson scored 21 points for the Spurs, who came in with the League's best home record of 21-1.

Mavericks 90, Timberwolves 77. Rolando Blackman scored 21 points and the Dallas Mavericks pulled away in the second half and beat the Minnesota Timber-

wolves 90-77 for their ninth victory in 11 games.

Minnesota, 2-20 on the road, led the entire first quarter and was ahead midway through the third period. But Sam Perkins, Roy Tarpley and Brad Davis rallied the Mavericks.

Tooy Campbell and Todd Murphy led Minnesota with 17 points apiece.

Pistons 104, Bucks 101. Isiah Thomas scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter as the Detroit Pistons beat the Milwaukee Bucks 104-101 for their ninth straight victory.

Thomas made two free throws with nine seconds left to give the Pistons their final margin of victory.

Milwaukee had a chance to tie the game with 10 seconds left, but Jack Sikma, a 90 per cent free throw shooter, missed his first from the line after he'd made in steal. Sikma made the second to make it 102-101 before Thomas' two free throws. Paul Presley then misfired on a 3-pointer as time ran down.

Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists
Utah	105	24	72
Cleveland	106	24	84
New York	121	22	118
Orlando	102	21	99
L.A. Clippers	105	20	103
Dallas	90	20	77
Atlanta	110	20	102
Detroit	104	20	101
Indiana	105	20	100
Denver	123	20	98

Azinger, Smith tie for lead

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Feb 9, (Reuters): Paul Azinger took advantage of the par-five holes yesterday to gain a share of the lead with Mike Smith after the opening round of the million-dollar Hawaiian Open golf tournament.

Azinger had three birdies and an eagle on the four par-five holes as he shot a four-under-par 68. Smith, who played on the European tour the last two years after losing his US Tour playing card, posted six birdies and two bogeys for his 68.

Dave Eichelberger and Jim Hallett were tied for third place at 69 at the Waialae Country Club where strong, gusty winds reaching 65 kph.

Defending champion Gene Sauers finished birdie-eagle for a two-under 70 and was tied seven others. One victim of the wind was Tom Kite, the 1989 Player of the Year.

Johnson to quit

DENVER, Feb 9, (AP): Bill Johnson, the 1984 Olympic downhill champion whose career has been in decline ever since that magical season, plans to announce his retirement from the US ski team this month.

Jon Franklin, Johnson's friend and former agent, said Johnson told him Tuesday that he intends to announce his retirement at the US Alpine Ski Championships in Crested Butte Feb 16-23.

Contacted at his home in South Lake Tahoe, California, by the Rocky Mountain News, Johnson was reluctant to scoop his formal announcement, but he left little doubt about his intentions.

the Year, who shot 75. Azinger's eagle came on the 18th hole — his ninth of the day. It played downwind and he reached the green with a five-iron, hitting it 250 yards and then made a putt of 15 feet.

"The wind was so strong," Azinger said, "that you could almost throw the yardage book away. This is a great course because you can play it in all sorts of conditions. It will receive a low ball and a lot of new courses won't do that."

Smith, who played the US Tour for seven years before joining the European Tour, said: "I'm happy to be back here, but the experience of the last two years will help me. The European Tour is great and they have a lot of fine players."

The winner on Sunday will receive \$180,000.



Paul Azinger

India seeks protection

NEW DELHI, Feb 9, (Reuters): The Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) asked Pakistan on Wednesday to provide extra protection for its team during the World Cup which begins in Lahore next week.

The IHF said it had sent telex messages to Pakistan's hockey authorities and the Brussels-based International Hockey Federation seeking special security measures for the team.

Relations between India and Pakistan have become more strained recently over Indian-ruled Kashmir, which has been in turmoil for more than a year as a result of a Muslim-inspired campaign for independence.

On Monday, Indian troops opened fire to beat back more than 4,000 Pakistani protesters who tried to cross into Jammu and Kashmir state.

An IHF spokesman said India was also concerned over recent incidents during which crowds threw stones at Indian cricketers touring Pakistan. Indian crowds shouted anti-Pakistan slogans during the Asia Cup hockey tournament in Delhi in December.

Ruddock to face Dokes on April 4

NEW YORK, Feb 9, (AP): Michael Dokes and Razor Ruddock couldn't get fights with heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, so they'll fight each other.

Their April 4 meeting at Madison Square Garden was formally announced yesterday in New York, and it's being billed as "Fighting mad" — not at each other but at promoter Don King for sidestepping them in the heavyweight championship chase.

"I don't know if Tyson's trying to avoid me, or whether King is manipulating him," Dokes said. "But I would like to ask him personally."

Last August, King reportedly turned down Dokes' asking price of \$3 million to fight Tyson and offered \$1 million which Dokes considers chump change.

Instead, King made a deal to co-promote a fight with Muhammad Ali and Riddick Bowe, then signed to fight Buster Douglas, whom he beats Sunday in Tokyo.

Since that time, Muhammad has sued King for breach of contract.

"It bothers me. It bothers me a lot," Ruddock said of the blown opportunity at the heavyweight title.

"I couldn't understand how he says he's going to fight Douglas, not me, when we had a contract. There's got to be a reason he'd do that."

"Somebody's got to teach King a lesson that he can't do that — he can't just ignore contracts."

Dokes, 31, who was inactive for nearly three years in the mid-1980s while he battled drug addiction, is a former WBA heavyweight champion with a record of 41-2-2 with 27 knockouts. He will put his WBA intercontinental title at risk against Ruddock.



Figure skating

Kristi Yamaguchi is lifted into the air by her pairs partner Rudi Galindo as the defending champions in the event look to the ice to skate in the original programme pairs competition at the US Figure Skating Championships in Salt Lake City on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Desert Orchid to miss Aintree Grand National

LONDON, Feb 9, (Reuters): Desert Orchid, Britain's most popular racehorse, will not run in the Grand National steeplechase at Aintree on April 7.

After the grey had scored the 30th success of his career at Wincanton in southwest England yesterday, trainer David Elsworth said: "His target is the Gold Cup and then, depending on how he comes out of Cheltenham, the Whitbread Gold Cup. The Irish Grand National could also be a possibility."

On Tuesday it was announced that Desert Orchid had been set to carry top weight of 12st 2lbs (77.1 kgs) at Aintree. Elsworth's initially felt it was good racing weight and he would be in favour of running.

Later, however, principal owner Richard Burridge said he was against trying for the National this year because he feels it comes too soon, just 23 days, after the Gold Cup, the supreme test for steeplechasers.

But if for any reason Desert Orchid were to miss or bypass the 1991 Gold Cup at Aintree might be a possibility. He is currently aged 4 and aged to be expected to retain decent form for two or three more years.

Yesterday, Desert Orchid, running in Gold Cup warm-up and starting at 100-30 on, jumped with his usual flamboyance to win by 20 lengths.

Horse racing at one of England's two all-weather tracks was called yesterday — because of the weather. Water was still lying on the Midlands track of Southwell 40 minutes before the first scheduled race at 1 pm.

It was the first time the special surface had failed to cope with conditions since all-weather racing began in October last year, although fog caused an abandonment in November.

Clerk of the Course Jane Groves said pumping had started at 8.30 am.

Jabriya, Fahaheel win

THE first match of this week's Holiday Inn Netball League was contested by Jabriya and Salwa & Salwya (SAS) and saw the return to the game of Chris Hill, after the birth of her daughter, Taline. The game was fast and exciting and Jabriya were winners of every quarter. Jane Harrison, the Jabriya goal shooter, had a fine game.

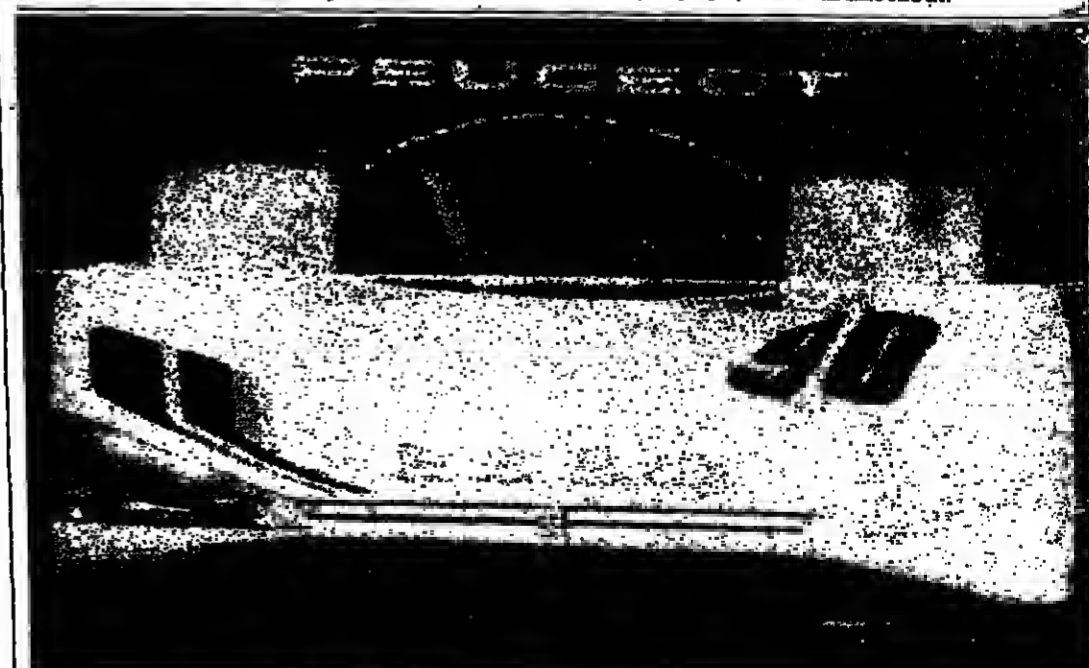
Salwa and Salwya team were in action again later in the evening when they fought a fierce battle with Fahaheel. The SAS team were leading until the final quarter of the game, when Fahaheel just pulled ahead, making the final score 26-24. This is Fahaheel's first win in the league. In both games, Vanessa Kenney,

the SAS captain, encouraged her team by her fine display of shooting. It is unfortunate that SAS' fine performances have not yet been rewarded with League points.

The local derby, Gulf Jets vs Gulf Sharks, was a closely contested game, with both defences consistently thwarting the goal attempts of the opposing team. In particular, Sally Corneer had an outstanding game.

After two weeks the League table is now as follows.

Team	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pts
Jabriya	2	2	0	0	51	23	4
Gulf Jets	2	2	0	0	35	22	4
Fahaheel	2	1	1	0	37	51	2
G. Sharks	1	0	0	1	8	14	0
Salwa & Sal	3	0	3	0	30	71	0



The new Peugeot 905 unveiled on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Peugeot unveils new sportscar

VELIZY, France, Feb 9, (Reuters): French carmakers Peugeot yesterday unveiled the car which they hope will challenge Mercedes and Jaguar next year in the World Sportscar Championship.

Former French Formula One driver Jean-Pierre Jabouille will test the car which, it is hoped, may make a racing debut later this year.

"We chose to run in sportscar rather than Formula One because it is much better in terms of our

group's image. Next year's championship will be very competitive," said Jean Todt, head of Peugeot's racing department.

International Motor Sports Federation (FIM) president Jean-Marie Balestre said 17 teams were developing engines for the next sportscar championship when, under new rules, engine capacity will be limited to 3.5 litres and turbos will be banned.

Douglas outpoints Tyson on decorum

TOKYO, Feb 9, (Reuters): World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson and challenger James 'Buster' Douglas matched boasts and bluster at a news conference yesterday, although Douglas was the clear winner on decorum.

At one point Tyson put earphones on and appeared to be singing along to music while an interpreter spoke in Japanese, and at another he dismissed a question with a harsh obscenity.

Douglas' rhetoric was less earthy, and when not answering questions he sat quietly in a suit and tie. Tyson wore a 'Tyson team' T-shirt and jeans.

But two days ahead of a title fight that has so far drawn only modest interest, Douglas' optimistic claims equalled Tyson's.

"I'm in great shape and there's no way I can lose," Tyson said. "I'm also in great shape and I feel tremendous," said Douglas.

Both were vague when it came to tactics and timing. Tyson said: "I'm not a predictor of rounds. I



Tyson (left) appears to sleep during the conference while sitting next to promoter Don King. (Reuters wirephoto)

just go to win."

"I'll take it any way I can get it," said Douglas.

When asked whether he was using a psychiatrist or psy-

chologist to help in training, Tyson said he was not. "If you can't fight, you're."

weight bout, noon (0300GMT) on Sunday, as having any effect on their ability to win.

Fighting words have been flying between the two camps for weeks but have failed to recreate the air of excitement seen in Tokyo in March 1988 when Tyson, in his first overseas title defence, took on Tony 'TNT' Tubbs.

That match, the first heavyweight title fight in Tokyo since 1973, drew heavy advance hype, but in the actual event Tubbs proved aptly named. With an ample spare tyre slowing him down, he lasted less than two rounds before Tyson sent him crashing to the canvas.

Tyson himself has been described as at less-than-ideal weight for Sunday's fight, and has taken some heat in the Japanese press for unimpressive sparring sessions — in some of which he looked slow and in one of which he hit the canvas.

He told reporters that incident was not a knockdown. "I slip-

ped. You guys made a big deal of it... the night of the fight will be totally different."

Tyson said he currently weighed about 219 pounds (88.5 kgs). "I'm at my weight right now, prepared to fight."

Douglas said he was at 230 pounds (93 kgs) and hoped to be at 224 (90.5 kgs) for the fight.

The 29-year-old Douglas, with a record of 29 wins, four losses and one draw against 23-year-old Tyson's 37-0, was more of a crowd pleaser in a public sparring last Saturday. However, reports of slow ticket sales suggest few expect an upset.

The Tokyo Dome venue normally seats 56,000 and that could be expanded by several thousand, but there looks little chance of a sell-out.

Regardless, the fighters will not go home empty-handed. Guarantees from television and the local backers of the fight are expected to provide some \$12 million, with the champion's camp taking nine million and the challenger's three.

Handwritten text in Arabic script.

Lewis to replace Elcock

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, Feb 9, (Reuters): Chris Lewis was called up as a surprise replacement for injured fast bowler Ricky Elcock on England's cricket tour of West Indies.

The Guyana-born Leicestershire fast bowler, who made his country debut three years ago, received the call while in Kenya with the England team. He is due in Trinidad on Sunday.

Lewis now has a chance to make his debut on his 22nd birthday next Wednesday when England play their opening one-day international against West Indies in Port of Spain.

Glamorgan's Steve Watkin had been the favourite to take over but England tour manager Peter Lush said: "We see Chris as the best strike bowler replacement for Elcock."

Elcock, plagued by a chronic back injury, withdrew from the tour on Wednesday after fighting a losing battle for fitness since shortly before the tour began two weeks ago.

Lewis himself was out for much of the summer with a circulation problem in his fingers which stopped him bowling but he nonetheless picked up 45 first-class county wickets.

A genuinely fast bowler, he is also a useful batsman and has been compared to his former county team-mate and now fellow England international Phillip DeFreitas.

England manager Mickey Stewart said later Lewis had been considered the quickest bowler in the World Youth Cup in Australia two years ago.

"We picked Lewis for his extra bit of pace," he said. "We have three economy bowlers in Angus Fraser, Gladstone Small and Phil DeFreitas and felt we needed someone who has the ability to bowl quick."

Stewart added: "It is not our policy, however, on this tour to fight fire with fire."

Cup organisers anger Ireland

ROME, Feb 9, (Reuters): World Cup soccer organisers worried about violence from fans have angered Ireland by blocking plans to put their team in a hotel in the same place as opponents England.

Roherto Pappalardo, secretary of the Italia 90 organising committee for the Sardinian venue Cagliari, said the proximity of the hotels in the beach resort of Santa Margherita, the England World Cup headquarters, would pose a security problem.

"The hotels are five minutes apart by car and for better or for worse fans try to reach team hotels. Santa Margherita is a real English zone. Police have forbidden us to let the Irish go there as well," he said today.

Organisers proposed a choice of three other hotels for the two nights Ireland will be in Sardinia for their first round match against England on June 11 but the Irish Football Association (FAI) had rejected all of them, Pappalardo said.

Wasim confirms all-rounder status taking Man of the Match of two Tests

Taylor slams Pakistan for ton

SYDNEY, Feb 9, (Reuters): Australia's cricket team can lay claim to be the world's second best side behind West Indies after winning the three Test series against Pakistan 1-0.

Australian opener Mark Taylor continued his excellent recent form on the final day of the drawn third Test, scoring 101 not out yesterday. It was the left-hander's sixth Test hundred and fourth this summer from six Tests.

At the close of play yesterday Australia were 176 for two in their first innings, in response to Pakistan's 199.

"This has been a wonderful series for us. We've done exceptionally well and we've now gone a long time without being beaten in a Test match," Australian coach Bob Simpson said. The home side won the first Test by 92 runs.

Pakistan, who had not lost a series for five years and who arrived trumpeting themselves as the second best side in the world, are still to win a game on their tour.

Allan Border, who reluctantly accepted the mantle of captain in late 1984 from Kim Hughes, has now taken his record to 14 consecutive Test matches without defeat, elevating him above the tally of Ian Chappell in the early 1970s.

The veteran batsman has the chance of equalling Sir Don Bradman's undefeated run of 15



Wasim: had an excellent series

if he can draw or win the single Test in New Zealand next month. Border's sequence began

against West Indies in Sydney in 1988/89, followed by the victorious Ashes series against New

Zealand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The series against Pakistan was poised for an exciting finish after a dramatic drawn second Test in Adelaide but torrential rain washed away any chance of a result in the Sydney Test, preventing play on three days.

Taylor was at the crease for 258 minutes and hit eight fours. He had one life when Rameez Raja put down a chance at first slip when the New South Welshman was on 26.

Taylor has now passed 50 in 14 of his 25 Test innings since his debut against the West Indies last year. Border, not out for 27, offered good support and hit one massive six, dancing down the pitch and lofting Tauseef Ahmed over long on.

Newsmen Mike Veletta and Tom Moody, brought in to replace the injured pair of David Boon and Geoff Marsh, were the wickets to fall yesterday.

Opener Veletta, playing his eighth Test, was out leg before wicket for nine when he played back defensively to a ball which ducked in sharply from Waqar Younis. Moody was out to a bat-pad catch off Tauseef for 26.

Terry Alderman was voted Man of the Match for his haul of five wickets for 65.

Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram was the star of the series, taking the Man of the Match prize in each of the first two Tests. He captured 11 wickets in

the first Test.

He confirmed his all-rounder status with a spectacular second Test, scoring 52 and 123 and snaring five for 100 in the first innings. Other than the brilliance of Wasim, Pakistan have not had a happy tour.

Abdul Qadir was sent home early on, ostensibly for an injury to the spinning finger of his right hand, but his departure followed criticism by Imran Khan of the spinner's form and attitude.

Vice-captain Javed Miandad has carried a back injury and required a runner in the Adelaide Test.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 189 (Imran Khan 82 not out, Javed Miandad 48, T. Alderman five for 85)	AUSTRALIA first innings
M. Taylor not out.....101	M. Veletta lbw b Waqar.....9
T. Moody c Asner b Tauseef.....26	A. Border not out.....27
Extras (b-4 lb-5 nb-4).....13	Total (for two wickets).....176
Fall: 1-33 T-106	Did not bat: D. Jones, S. Waugh, I. Healy, P. Taylor, M. Hughes, C. Rackemann, T. Alderman
Bowling: Wasim Akram 10-3-29-0 (3nb), Imran Khan 17-2-32-0 (1nb), Tauseef Ahmed 18-3-82-1, Nadeem Ghouri 8-1-20-0, Waqar Younis 9-4-21-1, Ejaz Ahmed 2-0-3-0.	Result—Match drawn.
Australia won the series 1-0.	

Police tear-gas tour protesters

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 9, (Reuters): Riot police used tear-gas and batons against black teenagers attempting to stage a protest against the rebel English cricket tour of South Africa yesterday. Activists said some of the protesters were beaten.

An apartheid activist Moses Mayekiso strongly condemned the police, saying their action was difficult to understand. "Given the fact that (President F.W.) De Klerk is talking about change,"

He said the police waded into a crowd of protesters as they were about to leave the black township of Alexandra to travel to a Johannesburg cricket ground where the English cricket team is playing the first international match of a seven-week tour.

Witnesses said most of the demonstrators were teenagers wearing regulation black and white school uniforms.

"The riot police arrived and started tear-gassing and beating up people," Mayekiso said in a statement. Police captain Eugene Opperman

said police intervened on learning 2,000 students and other activists were travelling from Alexandra township to Johannesburg's Wanderers Cricket Stadium.

The protest defied a magistrates' order refusing a request by anti-tour groups for permission to demonstrate at Wanderers.

Opperman said most of the demonstrators had been young people removed from schools at short notice by anti-tour organisers.

Anti-apartheid campaigners urged British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today to press Pretoria to call off the tour.

A delegation of six presented a letter addressed to Thatcher at the British Consulate in Johannesburg, accusing her of faint-hearted opposition to the boycott-breaking tour.

Listing almost daily clashes between South African police and black protesters since the tour started three weeks ago, the letter said: "Instead of redressing racial tension, this cricket tour is polarising our people on racial lines."

Listing almost daily clashes between South African police and black protesters since the tour started three weeks ago, the letter said: "Instead of redressing racial tension, this cricket tour is polarising our people on racial lines."



A policeman hits one of the demonstrators. (Reuters wirephoto).



One of the demonstrators arrested by the South African police. (Reuters wirephoto).

Rain hits India's match

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb 9, (AP): New Zealand fast bowler Danny Morrison collapsed during the lunch break today as the first day of the second cricket Test between the Kiwis and India was rained out at McLean Park.

Morrison fell backwards out of his chair, hit his head and collapsed, much to the astonishment of his team-mates.

Captain Bob Cunliffe and a stunned captain John Wright immediately called a doctor to treat Morrison, who apparently suffered no ill-effects.

"He's had a fainting spell. That is all it has been put down to," said New

Zealand manager Leif Dearsley. "It would be a combination of low blood pressure, which most athletes have, and a bit of a gastric twinge. With the two together he fainted."

Dearsley said Morrison lost consciousness briefly but recovered almost immediately.

"Very fortunately it wasn't anything as serious as first thought," he said.

Morrison later told reporters he had choked on a mouthful of food. The pace bowler is expected to take his place in the New Zealand team when the Test match gets started tomorrow morning, but the weather forecast is again for rain.

Gullit's fitness crucial to Dutch hopes

AMSTERDAM, Feb 9, (Reuters): The continued absence of captain Ruud Gullit has dampened Dutch hopes of following their 1988 European Championship triumph by winning the World Cup for the first time this summer in Italy.

The Dutch were without Gullit for most of their qualifying matches and failed to show the style which made them European champions, despite winning their group.

Gullit will not play at least until March after three knee operations in eight months and remains doubtful for the Dutch World Cup campaign which opens in Palermo against Egypt on June 12.

The group also includes England and the Republic of Ireland.

Many Dutch soccer observers see the powerful, dreadlocked captain as the key catalyst in a team which also boasts the talents of Gullit's AC Milan colleagues Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard and Barcelona's Ronald Koeman.

"Gullit has the quality to do something special and opponents are so wary of him it creates space for other players," said Ruud Krol, the libero who played for the Dutch in their two World Cup final appearances in the 1970s.

Krol maintained, however, that despite Gullit's problems, the Dutch remain one of the favourites in Italy.

"Of course there are a lot of other good teams, but the Dutch have such quality overall that



Ruud Gullit, Netherlands' top p'ayer

everyone is expecting them to be at least among the last four," he said.

The team's potential has provoked comparisons with the great World Cup sides of the 1970s when they finished runners-up to the hosts in West Germany in 1974 and suffered the same fate in Argentina four years later.

The 1974 team, coached by Rinus Miebelis, captured the public imagination. Featuring stars like Johan Cruyff and Wim van Hanegem, they created a style labelled 'total football',

with players swapping positions, with ease and the accent on attack.

Jan Jongbloed, Dutch goalkeeper in the two finals, stresses the current team now has a very different method.

"They play a more patient game, moving the ball around among themselves and keeping hold of it until they can put Gullit or Van Basten away in space," he told Reuters.

He believes this style is ideally suited to the demands of modern international soccer.

"Fifteen years ago you could play a freer game, but now soccer

is faster and tougher. The players are fitter, able to remain competitive throughout a long tournament," he said.

But Thijs Libregts, coach since the European Championships, has been lambasted in the Dutch media for playing too cautiously, with Gullit joining the chorus of disapproval.

Michels, at the helm again when the Dutch won the European Championship, now has a post with the national soccer association. He will be with the squad in Italy, with his influence expected to take some pressure off Libregts.

The bluff Amsterdammer, nicknamed 'the general', enjoys a particularly good relationship with the leading players.

His European Championship side still provides the core of the team with Koeman and Rijkaard forming a formidable central defensive partnership in front of experienced PSV Eindhoven goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen.

Ajax Amsterdam's hard-working Jan Wouters and PSV's skilful Gerald Vanenburg, recently restored to fitness after a three-month injury lay-off, are key figures in midfield.

"Wouters is not an eye-catching player but his tackling and covering are vital to the team while you give Vanenburg the ball and know he'll keep possession," said Jongbloed.

In attack the pairing of Gullit and Van Basten, European Football of the Year for the last two seasons, is envied by coaches world-wide.

Weaknesses are not obvious,

but the squad seems short of quality left-sided players apart from Anderlecht defender Adri van Tiggelen and Mechelen midfielder Erwin Koeman.

The gap could be plugged by Ajax defender Sonny Silooy, yet to play this season after a serious knee injury, or his club mate, enigmatic winger Bryan Roy.

The 19-year-old Roy was hailed as a new Gullit when he first played for Ajax two seasons ago, but has lost form and confidence since his international debut last September.

Preparations for the finals include two tough friendlies—against hosts Italy in Rotterdam next month and away to the Soviet Union in March—plus games with Austria in Vienna and Yugoslavia or Hungary in the fortnight before the competition.

But plans could be hampered as so many players are now with the leading foreign clubs.

In December the Dutch slumped to their first defeat in 18 months when injuries and unavailability forced them to field a second string team in a friendly with Brazil.

Libregts hopes to assemble this entire squad in mid-May, but their ranks will be depleted if PSV, Mechelen or AC Milan reach the European Cup final.

However Dutch hopes remain high. "So much depends on finding the right atmosphere and formation over a few weeks," said Krol. "But the Dutch much be aiming for the semifinals—once you're there anything can happen."

Australia begin defence of title

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 9, (Reuters): Australia begin the defence of their World Cup hockey title on Tuesday in confident mood after scoring 22 goals in their last four matches.

They have been beaten only once—by West Germany—since finishing a disappointing fourth in the 1988 Olympics and won the only major event since the Seoul Games, the Champions' Trophy in West Berlin last June.

The Australians have gambled to some extent by preferring Stephen Davies to experienced centre forward Mark Hager. Olympic silver medalist West Germany, so consistent but overdue a major title, have been Australia's problem team for four years and threaten to be the biggest threat to the champions hanging on to their crown.

The loss of key players since they reached the Olympic final has left them vulnerable but in Stefan Blocher and penalty corner striker Carsten Fischer they have two of the finest players in the men's game.

The Germans were third in the Champions' Trophy but finished 1989 by winning a five-nation event in Hamburg which included Australia.

The Netherlands were only seventh at the last World Cup but under coach Hans Jorritsma they improved to take the bronze medal in Seoul, finished second in the 1989 Champions' Trophy, and first in the Intercontinental Cup, the World Cup qualifier.

Like the West Germans, they have a powerful penalty corner striker in Floris Boelander.

Pakistan, three times former winners, have developed an exciting young side who showed their mettle recently by winning the Asian Cup.

Playing in front of their own fervent supporters and with no acclimatisation problems, they are seen as potential medalists.

England's recent form has been unimpressive but with seven members of Britain's Olympic gold medal winning team in their ranks they are bound to be a threat.

Much will depend on the sharpness of prolific scorer Sean Kerly.

The 12 teams in the tournament, which runs from February 12 to 23, have been divided into two groups with the first two in each qualifying for the semifinals.

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Graf injures hand in skiing accident

HEIDELBERG, West Germany, Feb 9. (Reuters): World number one Steffi Graf could be out of tennis for up to two months after injuring her playing hand in a skiing accident.

The 20-year-old West German broke the bone of her right thumb when she fell while cross country skiing in the Swiss ski resort of St Moritz, her press spokesman said yesterday.

A medical examination at a West German hospital yesterday ruled out earlier reports that Graf had torn ligaments in her right wrist in Wednesday's fall.

Doctors at a Heidelberg clinic were to examine Graf again today and decide whether to operate on the hand. Graf has already told the organisers of two tournaments in Florida next month, at Boca Raton and Key Biscayne, about the injury but has not withdrawn from those events.

Graf, who last month won the Australian

Open singles tennis title for the third year in a row, was named Player of the Month for January on Wednesday by the Women's World Tour.

Graf, the top-ranked women's player, narrowly defeated Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States.

Qadsiya win

JEDDAH, Feb 9. (Kuna): Kuwait's Qadsiya volleyball club has won the 9th tournament for GCC champions of their countries. The Kuwaiti team won the tournament after defeating Saudi Al Ahli club 3-1. The Saudi team came second and the Bahraini Al Nasr club came third.

Contract extended

MILAN, Italy, Feb 9. (Reuters): Dutch soccer star Marco van Basten has extended his contract with European champions AC Milan of Italy until the end of the 1993 season.

Spanish Cup

MADRID, Feb 9. (Reuters): Pao Llorente gave Real Madrid a 1-0 lead in the Spanish Cup final as the club won the trophy for the first time since 1945. Barcelona were lucky to escape a 2-1 advantage over Valencia in Spanish Cup semifinal first leg soccer clashes on Wednesday.

Hall of Fame

NEW YORK, Feb 9. (Reuters): Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, Elvin Hayes, Dave Bing and the late Jerry West were elected to the basketball Hall of Fame yesterday.

IOC plans

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Feb 9. (AP): The International Olympic Committee is working on plans to restore South African eligibility for the Olympic Games once apartheid is abolished.

Hearns sentenced

PONTIAC, Michigan, Feb 9. (UPI): Henry Hearns, the younger brother of boxer Thomas Hearns, was sentenced to 27 to 52 years in prison for murdering a 19-year-old woman.

Commercial link

LONDON, Feb 9. (Reuters): The McLaren Formula One motor racing team has formed a commercial link with its British rivals, Tyrrell, the teams announced in a joint statement yesterday.

Pfeiffer triumphs

TOKYO, Feb 9. (AP): Austrian Roland Pfeiffer won the Super Giant Slalom Friday in the world pro ski championships, the eighth leg of 12 dual ski meets on Japan's professional circuit.

World Cup

TURIN, Italy, Feb 9. (Reuters): Car giant Fiat, owned by soccer-loving industrialist Giovanni Agnelli, has told its 100,000 shift workers they can stop work early this summer to watch Italy play in the World Cup finals.

Romania beaten

MUNICH, West Germany, Feb 9. (Reuters): West German League champions Bayern Munich beat Romania 2-1 (half-time 1-1) in a friendly soccer match on Wednesday night.

Senate inquiry

BRISBANE, Australia, Feb 9. (AP): The head of the Senate inquiry into drugs in sport said today there was investigation into allegations that an Australian Commonwealth Games competitor offered performance-enhancing drugs to teammates.

N.Korea blamed

SEOUL, Feb 9. (UPI): South Korea blamed North Korea yesterday for the failure of sports talks between the two countries seeking to form a unified Korean team to the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing.

US committee

PHOENIX, Arizona, Feb 9. (AP): The ruling body of the US Olympic Committee, criticised in recent years for its unwieldy size and bureaucracy, will decide this week whether to replace its more than 400 members with a smaller board.

Grabb edges Rostagno

Srejbner stuns Krickstein

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 9. (Reuters): Fifth-seeded Jim Grabb advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$225,000 San Francisco tennis championships yesterday with a three-set victory over a former college teammate.

Grabb defeated fellow-American Derrick Rostagno, with whom he played at Stanford University, 6-2 6-7 6-4.

In other second-round action, seventh-seeded American Richy Reneberg made quick work of unseeded compatriot Chris Garner 6-1 6-3. Reneberg, ranked 24th, outclassed Garner, a qualifier rated 210th, using biting groundstrokes and strong returns to score the 60-minute victory.

Grabb served almost perfectly in the early going against Rostagno, dropping just six points against serve until the second-set tiebreaker.

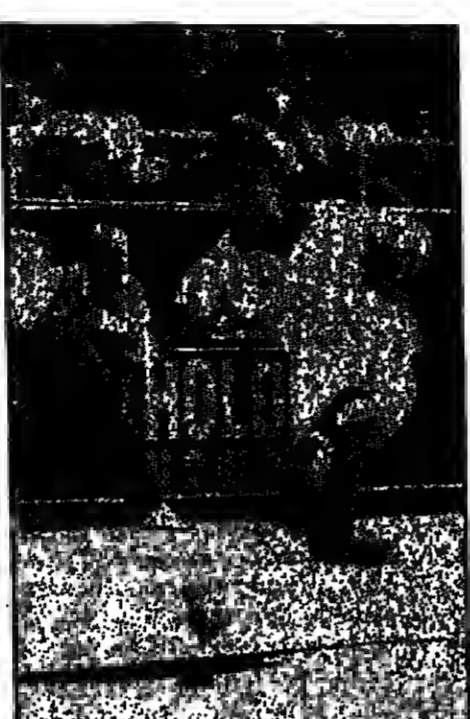
But nerves played a part in undoing the fifth seed's confidence as Rostagno used accurate passing shots to break Grabb and win the tiebreak set 7-4 with a forehand crosscourt return.

Grabb faced two break points in the third game of the third set, but fought them off with big first serves. After that, the serve-volleying Grabb dominated again with his crisp delivery, losing just one more point on serve and breaking his opponent for the match when Rostagno double-faulted twice.

Third-seeded Aaron Krickstein and seventh-seeded Horst Skoff were ousted from the Milan Indoor Tennis Tournament following second-round upsets yesterday.

Krickstein, ranking seventh in the world, lost in straight sets, 6-2 6-3, to unseeded Milan Srejbner of Czechoslovakia.

The 22-year-old American explained after the match: "Srejbner broke me twice at the



Krickstein, knocked out

beginning of both sets and it was impossible to come back on a guy who serves as well as he does."

Krickstein added that his next tournament of the ATP Tour will be Toronto and Philadelphia.

In other second-round action unseeded Americans Pete Sampras and Jim Courier

scored convincing wins in straight sets while Swiss Jakob Hlasek, John McEnroe doubles teammate, took nearly two hours to down Jeremy Bates of Britain 6-3 3-6 6-3.

Sampras, 19, from Rancho Palos Verdes, California, won a second-set tie-breaker 7-4 on his way to a 6-1, 7-6 victory against West German qualifier Markus Zöckle.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) will have to forfeit \$125,000 unless it can convince American Andre Agassi to take part in next week's Brussels tournament, its organizer said yesterday.

Under its own rules, ATP is obliged to pay the sum to the organizers if it cannot guarantee a minimum of two top 10 players in championship series tournaments.

But with Sweden's Stefan Edberg out through injury, the only top 10 player left is Boris Becker.

Tournament organizer Adrien Vanden Eede said ATP was offering Agassi, ranked eighth in the world and currently playing in San Francisco, "a big sum of money," to play in Brussels. Negotiations were still going on.

John McEnroe has appealed against fines totalling \$6,500 imposed for offences at last month's Australian Open from which he was disqualified, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old American, thrown out for swearing at an official during his fourth round match against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors, is in danger of missing one of the other three Grand Slam tournaments this year because of his bad behaviour.

Any player fined a total of \$7,500 at ITF events during a season is automatically barred from the next Grand Slam tournament.



Kuwait triumph

Kuwait's national swimming team returned home after winning an international swim meet in Tehran this week. Seven countries including China, India and Kenya took part in the event. (Photo by Javed Bhatti)

Al Thani 4th fastest

DHAKA, Feb 9. Dubai Victory, the Cessna 310 sponsored by Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, finally got its challenge underway in the Paris-Langawi-Paris International Air Race, finishing fourth fastest on the second leg of the 25,000 km race.

Despite suffering a mechanical problem with one of its engines, the light aircraft piloted by Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani arrived safely in Dhaka at the end of the 11 hour, 12 minute flight from Bahrain.

Of the eight remaining piston-engined aircraft quickest over the leg was the Piper Aerostar, Falcon of Jordan, piloted by Eric Ledger. Second was Patrick Saille of Belgium in Azur, followed by another Cessna 310, the French aircraft Manpower, flown by Delio Iglesias.

After two legs, Falcon of Jordan is the overall leader of the section for the piston-engined aircraft with Manpower second and Azur third. In the class of turboprops, Pelangi 90 leads the way ahead of Hors Ligne and Pilatus-Breiting.

Jim Gilchrist, the British journalist on board Dubai Victory,

reports: "After the problems we experienced from Paris to Bahrain, we are pleased to have done so well. Although we had a slight scare with one of the engines, Captain Hamad handled the crisis expertly to bring us safely into Bangladesh."

"We are fourth fastest in our group so we beat three of the turbo-charged planes and the Piper Twin Commanche," said captain Hamad. "Our position is good since we flew very low and did not get the benefit of the tail winds. Our times will improve on the return from Delhi."

"This was Dubai Victory's best flight so far as the good weather helped us push along at more than 200 knots. After only four hours sleep following our late arrival in Bahrain, we were glad to have made up a bit of time on this leg."

"On the way to Dhaka we followed a route which took us past the UAE, Iran and Pakistan before landing at Ahmedabad."

"After a 10-minute stay for refuelling and the necessary paperwork, we raced on through the night and landed in Bangladesh, tired but delighted to have arrived safely."

15,000 to train for opening

KUWAIT, Feb 9. (Kuna): About 15,000 students will take part in the inauguration ceremony of the tenth Arab Football Cup tournament which is due here on February 20, an official at the Education Ministry said today.

Abdul Mohsen Al Saad, assistant undersecretary for information and students affairs, told Kuna that a timetable was starting tomorrow to train the students for the parade.

He said the parade will include a show of folklore dance and costumes that mirror the tradition of the seven Arab states: Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The participation of the Ministry of Education affirms belief in the importance of student participation in national occasions to strengthen national belonging among the students, Al Saad concluded.

Denmark rout UAE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Feb 9. (Reuters): Denmark, who failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals, hammered Italy-bound United Arab Emirates (UAE) 5-0 in their second soccer friendly yesterday.

Denmark, missing their foreign-based stars, took full advantage as the UAE rested several members of their first team and romped to a 4-0 halftime lead.

Denmark coasted through the second half, but UAE goalkeeper Adel Annas made several outstanding saves.

Their first meeting on Monday was a 1-1 draw. The goal avalanche began in the second minute when the UAE's most experienced defender, Mubarak Ghanem, mis-hit a back-pass to Adel Lars Jakobsen scored with a crashing right foot shot.

Henrik Larsen made it 2-0 with a corner in the 16th minute and Jacob Svingsgaard scored the game's best goal in the 36th minute with a 30-metre drive.

Defender Henrik Risom added the fourth three minutes from the interval from close range and second-half substitute Jes Høgh, making his international debut, tapped in the fifth after 77 minutes.

Sepp Piontek said yesterday he had been offered several jobs for when he stands down as Denmark's soccer coach in June but he denied he had been made an incentive offer by the Saudi Arabian national team.

"My wife has informed me by telephone about that (Danish) newspaper report. But it is not true. I haven't received any offer from Saudi Arabia," he told reporters in Abu Dhabi.

Colombia to play in Cup

ROME, Feb 9. (Reuters): Colombia will take part in this year's World Cup soccer finals in Italy despite a drugs-linked death threat against their coach, the World Cup organizers said yesterday.

Organisers Italia 90 said Colombian Soccer Federation president Leon Louredo Tamayo met Italia 90 director-general Luca di Montezemolo to assure him of the presence of Colombia at the World Cup with its best team.

The meeting followed a reported threat, from an anti-drugs group in Colombia, to kill coach Francisco Maturana unless the federation barred from the national team players from clubs alleged to be linked with drug money.

Milan come under fire from media

ROME, Feb 9. (Reuters): European and world club champions AC Milan go into their soccer clash-of-the-giants against Italian League leaders Napoli on Sunday under an unaccustomed cloud of press criticism.

Milan incurred the wrath of the media yesterday after drawing 0-0 at home to bottom club Verona in a surprising result that braked their challenge to Diego Maradona's Napoli.

The result could not have come at a worse time for Milan, whose hopes of replacing Napoli at the top in a match billed as decisive by Maradona have now been cast into doubt.

"Milan turn to stone," the front page headline in Italy's Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper said.

"For the entire 90 minutes, Milan never once gave the impression of having their usual, powerful creative vigour," said Corriere dello Sport.

It branded the attack laboured and confused and said only winger Roberto Donadoni had distinguished himself.

"Our legs were on the field but we left our heads behind," Milan captain and libero Franco Barresi admitted.

Manager Arrigo Sacchi, who had warned his team against complacency after a run of seven League wins, was pessimistic.

"Milan did not play well and a lost point. Sooner or later it had to happen. You can't always win."

Aston Villa wary of hit-man Francis

LONDON, Feb 9. (Reuters): Aston Villa's three points behind leaders Liverpool will be paying close attention to Sheffield Wednesday's former England striker Trevor Francis tomorrow as they press their challenge for the English League soccer title.

Francis, 35, scored a hat-trick for Queen's Park Rangers on his last visit to Villa Park in September. Since then, he has been dismissed as player-manager by the London club, undergone a hernia operation and joined Wednesday as a player.

Hopes But tomorrow he will be treated as a serious threat to Aston Villa's championship hopes.

"After that result, we came in for severe criticism," said Villa assistant manager John Ward.

"But, in a way, that hat-trick might have turned things around for us. After that, we needed to do something drastic and so far we have not looked back."

Since the QPR defeat, Aston



Trevor Francis

Villa have lost only five times in 28 games and turned a mediocre start to the season into a genuine

title challenge.

"We know Francis is capable of doing that again and you can't give him any space or room. But we will not be laying any special plans to try to stop him," said Ward.

Two of Villa's defeats have been against Second Division Middlesbrough in an invitation tournament, the second on Wednesday night, and relegation-threatened Wednesday could suffer as Villa seek an emphatic return to form.

Norwich captain Ian Butterworth will miss his second successive game when his side take on Liverpool for the third time in a fortnight.

Blood tests showed Butterworth was suffering from a recurrence of glandular fever and he has been advised to rest for a further week. Striker Robert Rosario is also struggling to overcome a calf injury.

At the other end of the table, Manchester United, 17th, could be pulled into the bottom three if

they are beaten at 18th-place Millwall.

Manager Alex Ferguson has virtually an entire team unfit or unavailable as United attempt to end their worst run of First Division results for 18 years.

Ferguson awaits a late fitness test on Paul Ince's ankle and has defenders Steve Bruce, Mal Donaghy, Lee Sharpe, Billy Garton and Denzil Graham all missing through suspension or injury.

He is also without long-term injury victims Bryan Robson, Neil Webb, Colin Gibson, Gary Walsh and Tony Gill.

Ruled

Millwall have midfielders Terry Hurlock and Gary Waddock and defender Keith Stevens ruled out through injury. Steve Wood may return to the defence after recovering from a stomach bug.

Chelsea, seventh and sliding, could have captain Peter Nicholas back in action in the London derby against Tottenham. He has missed four matches with a knee injury.

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Conference Programme

Monday, Feb 12

4.40 - 5.00 pm - Opening Ceremony
5.00 - 6.00 pm - Opening of drugs exhibition and a reception
6.00 - 7.30 pm - Main symposium - Development of Pharmaceutical Services

9.00 pm - Dinner banquet by Minister of Health at Kuwait Towers Restaurant.

Tuesday, Feb 13

8.00 - 10.00 am - Clinical Pharmacy session
10.00 - 10.15 am - Interval
10.15 am - 12.15 pm - Pharmaceutical Chemistry session
3.30 - 5.30 pm - Pharmaceutical Services session
5.30 - 5.45 pm - Interval

5.45 - 7.15 pm - "Pharmacy Education" Symposium
9.00 pm - A special dinner banquet for guests and members of the organising committee at "Grand Ballroom" Regency Palace Hotel.

Wednesday, Feb 14

8.00 - 10.00 am - Clinical Pharmacology session
10.00 - 10.15 am - Interval
10.15 am - 12.15 pm - Pharmaceutical Technology session
3.30 - 5.00 pm - Medicinal Plants session
5.00 - 5.15 pm - Interval
5.15 - 6.45 pm - Update lectures on Medical Sciences symposium

9.00 pm - A farewell dinner in honour of participants at Grand Ballroom-Kuwait International Hotel.

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